



Andrew Marr

Scottish devolution, page 13



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THE INDEPENDENT

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Blair prepares poll on political reform

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

Tony Blair is considering a dramatic extension of his commitment to offer referendums on constitutional questions.

Labour plans for a Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly are expected to be opened up to a referendum within months of a general election, giving Mr Blair a powerful additional mandate to drive legislation through Parliament.

The referendum initiative would add to the pressure already being placed on the divided Tories by Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party.

The Labour leader has already pledged a referendum on electoral reform and, possibly, a European single currency. The shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has said public consent would have to be tested before English regional assemblies could be set up.

But the logical extension of the policy to Scottish and Welsh devolution could create new tensions within the Labour Party, with an inevitable demand that some frontbench critics should be allowed to campaign against the party line.

The plan to plug into popular public support for constitutional change would be used to outflank John Major, who will highlight his determination to resist constitutional change in a speech to the Centre for Policy Studies tonight.

At a stroke, Mr Blair would be shooting Mr Major's fox - a key element of the Prime Minister's election strategy - pointing out that the voter will be guaranteed the last word.

In full pursuit of the Tory strategy, Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth yesterday exploited a report from the independent think-tank, the Constitution Unit, to challenge Mr Blair on the need for a referendum.

"The report echoes our challenge to Labour on a referendum," he said. "It is a supreme irony that those who claim to want a voice for the Scottish people should use it to give them a say on the issue."

Mr Forsyth also warned that Labour's devolution plans would require "a drastic

reduction in the number of Scottish MPs and therefore to a weakening of Scotland's voice at Westminster."

But shadow spokesman George Robertson said Mr Major's plans to create an assembly in Belfast did not include any proposal to cut the number of Ulster MPs at Westminster. He said devolution would "be good for the state, and bind Britain together".

That formula would certainly be used to defend plans to extend referendums. A paper on English devolution published last year by Mr Straw, *A Choice for England*, said plans for English regional assemblies would have to be submitted to Parliament for approval. But it added: "It would not come into effect until local people had given their consent to it through a referendum or some other objective measure of public opinion."

But the referendum device was used by opponents of devolution to kill off Labour proposals for Scottish and Welsh assemblies in 1979. The plans did not receive the required amount of public backing; that rejection helped bring about the downfall of the Callaghan government.

Labour's current devolution plans were yesterday subjected to sympathetic criticism by the Constitution Unit, a group of academics and former civil servants set up at arms' length from the party to look at the "nuts and bolts" of reform. The unit's report suggests the number of Scottish MPs be cut by 13 and the number of Welsh MPs by seven.

It says the offices of Scottish and Welsh secretaries of state would be "largely redundant", and should be replaced with a minister responsible for "relations with the nations and regions of the UK".

On Wales, the unit says a referendum "could help decide the question of principle whether Wales wants an assembly". And it suggests a law-making assembly would be better than an executive body, which has been derided as a glorified local council. "It should be done properly or not at all," said a unit member. It also calls for regions and nations to be represented in a reformed House of Lords.

Andrew Marr, page 13



The art of hope: 'England's Glory', a 10in by 15in painting by Matthew Ensor, is part of an exhibition of the same name at Gallery 27 in London's Mayfair. Football is the theme of the exhibition which closes on Saturday. This painting, on pieces of scrap wood, costs £1,800. Photograph: Peter Macdonald

1966/1996

Oasis aren't the Beatles
And Blur are not the Kinks
As Double D. and Watney's Pale
Were not designer drinks
And aerols weren't dishes
And football songs weren't hip
As monocles and spiky hats
Weren't German football strip
And Mitchell wasn't Garnett
As Death was not a fool

And Hamburg found the Mersey Sound
As much as Liverpool
And Klinsmann isn't Haller
As Shearer isn't Hurst
And Ramsey was as much revered
As Venables is cursed

But mad old Tommy Tabloid
Still hammers at the hun
A powdered egg-bound xenophobe
Marooned in '41
He hears the grainy wireless
Across the sun-parched lawn

"4-2, 4-2." He must be true
To lion and unicorn
And younger generations
For whom his cant is meant
Will dress alike and dance alike
With or without consent
As sons of Thames or Tyneside
The Elbe, Rhine and Spey
Will only speak in footballesse
Upon the field of play.

Martin Newell

Major fails his 11-plus test

The much-vaunted return of the grammar school is nothing of the kind, says Judith Judd

by the prospect of their children being consigned to secondary modern schools. In Solihull and Lincoln and now in Milton Keynes, they have campaigned against selection.

Comprehensives in many places work well, particularly if they have enough middle-class pupils. Research shows most parents are

happy with their children's education. A Keele University study of secondary school parents in 1994 showed 87 per cent would recommend the school their child attended.

Parents understand what the Prime Minister's promise of a grammar school in every town means: 70 or 80 per cent of children in secondary modern schools, which proved a failure in the Fifties and Sixties. In many towns,

the proportion outside grammar schools would be much higher. A Harris poll this spring for the Association of Teachers and Lecturers showed only 47 per cent of the under-45s back a return to selection. For the population as a whole, the figure is 54 per cent.

Schools have proved reluctant to select all their pupils. A further 41 have exercised the option to choose 10 per cent of their pupils but 35 of these select for aptitude in music and drama rather than general academic ability.

The Funding Agency for Schools, the quango in charge of grant maintained schools, has

State for Education if the local authority refuses to back the change. Yet, local authority schools are even less enthusiastic about selection than grant maintained schools.

The White Paper's aims are not educational but political. It tries to exploit Labour's opposition to selection and to highlight the decision of Tony Blair and Harriet Harman, the party's health spokeswoman, to send their children to grant maintained and grammar schools. John Major believes nostalgia for grammar schools will play well with voters and his right wing.

There may be some tinkering at the margins. A significant change is the requirement for schools to consult annually with parents on selecting 20 per cent of their pupils. The result will be a patchwork of grammar schools, half-grammar schools, specialist schools and grant maintained schools, with local authority comprehensives still mopping up all the remaining pupils. The politicians call it a mess.

Leading article, page 11
Essay, page 12

Main points of the Whiter Paper

■ All schools must ask parents each year whether they would like to introduce selection
■ Grant-maintained schools will be able to select up to 50 per cent of their pupils by ability or aptitude
■ Local authority schools can select up to 20 per cent of their pupils
■ Local authorities must give schools 95 per cent of the total budget available

■ Specialist technology and language colleges can select up to 30 per cent of their pupils by ability in their specialist subjects
■ Grant-maintained schools can increase their numbers by up to 50 per cent, open a nursery class, run a sixth form or start a school transport service without special permission

Full report, page 2

QUICKLY

England's burning desire
The attractiveness of a tan and a desire to "get their money's worth" from a holiday makes the English ignore the link between cancer and sunbathing. Page 3

Sugar to leave Amstrad
Sugar, the former East End barrow who became one of the City's most wheeler-dealers, is set to quit. Page 4

Service 'disaster'
The GP service faces "disaster" as young doctors reject it as a career and older GPs go for early retirement. Page 5

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EXHILARATION

CLASSIC FM 100-102

A senior party insider said yesterday the resignation of

with Dr Mawhinney," the campaigner said. He added: "Jeffery was a very senior civil servant within the party hierarchy - to lose him now is a mystery."

Mr Speed is said to have maintained ties with the constituency associations during a period when grassroots activists became disaffected with the

growing reluctance among constituency associations to dip into their pockets. In the financial year to the end of March, they only met 40.3 per

Mr Earl played an important role in trying to win the recent Hemsworth and Staffordshire South by-elections and the

irement age is now 60. Jeffery is coming to that age and as the party's finances are at such a good level he decided to leave now, to let someone else in."

Parents will choose type of schools

The paper has three main functions: extending selection; giving more freedom to grant maintained schools; and extending a greater proportion of the budget to local authority schools. In future all grant maintained schools will be able



Photograph: Jane Baker

In doing so, it must consider the level of choice in the area and how this might be extended through selection. Grant maintained schools will no longer need to seek permission if they want to increase their

Authorities will be forced to increase the amount of money they pass on to schools from 85 per cent to 95 per cent of the total budget. This would increase schools' spending by £90 per pupil, Mrs. Shephard said. The paper was dismissed by

local authorities, teachers' organisations and opposition politicians last night as a political gesture designed to appease the right wing of the Conservative Party.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers said: "Allowing comprehensive schools to select up to 20 per cent of pupils makes a mockery

"Opening new schools and expanding existing ones requires money. With a £3bn backlog on repairs and maintenance, the government knows it can barely afford to fund even a single token project.

The Government is to act to double the benefit cut of lone parents who fail to co-operate with the Child Support Agency, Andrew Mitchell, a junior social security minister, said last night in a Commons written reply. Legislation is to be introduced to cut by 40 per cent for three years the adult income support allowance of parents with care who fail to co-operate with the CSA without good cause.

Good Evans come to the aid of the party

TO OUR
MEMBERS WITH
THE 4TH
EMERGENCY
SERVICE



and "bogus asylum-seekers". This left me confused. Which Eurosceptic was he talking about? Conservatism? The benefit dodging Nigel? The benefit slashing David? Or the AC/DC Roger who seemed to lean both ways?

Not, incidentally, that things were any clearer on the other side of the House. There was the handsome MP for Nottingham South, Alan Simpson (who every week, writes a column in *Tribune* about how awful a Blair government will be and how it will betray the poor and needy) effectively rubbishising the anti-fraud campaign, earning approving smiles from the designer-rumpled Jeremy Corbyn (Islington N). Two rows below him was Frank Field

(Lah, Birkenhead) who believes strongly in the need to re-examine the credit system. With his soft voice, posture and his dapper, slightly icy appearance Mr Field needs only a pair of gossamer wings to be the Tough-But-Tender Fairy.

But let us not digress, for this is not the end of the Evans. David was on the list for Prime Minister's Questions and he made his presence felt. Would the Prime Minister remind those under 35, was it the Conservative Party that had let inflation rise to 29 per cent? "NO" roared the Tories. That raised the top rate of tax to 98 per cent? "NO". That had 176 MPs sponsored by the "Coniaus" -? "NO". "ORRRRRR!"

struck Evans, "wazzit thalotopsit?!" Of course it was thalotopsit. Thalotopsit sat and enjoyed every moment of Mr Evans rant. "More," they cried. So it is interesting to speculate how different political life would be if the Evanses were to get the promotion their efforts deserve. Suppose that instead of Mr Majnar answering the question about the England football team with the immortal Majoritarian "I hope they play well and have a satisfactory result", it had been David at the despatch box. As rendered into Evans this might have become the rousing, "Ooo won the 1966 World Cup? Us or thalotopsit?" In which thalotopsit is, of course, the Germans.

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هكذا من الأصل

Why sun tans have a fatal attraction



Skin disease second only to lung cancer

GLENDIA COOPER

Mad dogs and Englishmen still go out in the midday sun, despite a greater awareness of the links between skin cancer and sun exposure, according to the British Psychological Society. Psychologists studying why people take risks said that while Britons knew about the dangers of sunbathing, the belief a tan is attractive and desire to "get their money's worth" of two hot weeks abroad meant that they did not always take the hazards sufficiently seriously.

The situation is not helped by images of tanned models in travel brochures and women's magazines or advertisements such as the current Diet Coke ad where a man on a building site strips to his waist in the sun in front of admiring women. Cases of skin cancer are increasing in the UK and it is now the second most common cancer after lung cancer. More than 40,000 people are diagnosed every year and between 1974 and 1989 the number of new cases reported annually increased by more than 90 per cent.

About 2,000 people die from skin cancer each year, of which 1,500 die from the most serious form, malignant melanoma - the incidence of which is increasing faster than any other kind of cancer in Britain.

A husband and wife team from Exeter University carried out research into people's attitudes towards sun exposure and their behaviour. They compared 132 British beachgoers at the Devon resort of Dawlish Warren with 142 Italians at Viareggio, North West Italy.

While Britons were more prepared to acknowledge the risk of sun-bathing they were almost twice as likely as Italians to say lying on the beach was their ideal holiday.

"The British are making up for lost time and lost sun," said Richard Eiser, professor of psychology at the University of Exeter. "This is a typical northern European experience."

"Considerable variation" was also found in men and women's attitudes to sunbathing, according to a study of 176 British students. Women were more likely than men to acknowledge the health risks, tending to agree with statements such as "the middle of the day is especially dangerous time to sunbathe" and to say that they would use a sunscreen. However, women were also more likely to say they enjoyed sunbathing and felt a tan made them look more healthy.

While many may pay lip service to sun protection, a survey of holidaymakers in Tenerife found that only seven per cent of Britons were wearing high protection sunscreens (SPF15 or more).

While visitors to the resort reported greater susceptibility to sunburn they were also more likely than the locals to agree with the statement "The more tanned I am the more attractive I am to others" and the more frequently they visited hot resorts the more likely they were to agree.

Those who had also been burned badly in the past, were worryingly less careful about safe sun and taking a very optimistic view of their chances of getting skin cancer.

Dr Christine Eiser, reader in health psychology at Exeter said that men of all ages were at risk from skin cancer but particularly those who work outside on building sites or in gardens. Children and young people should also be carefully protected because medical evidence showed that a bad bout of sunburn before the age of 15 led to an increased risk of skin cancer.

"There is also the increasing problem of the damage to the ozone layer," said Dr Eiser. "A young person will have a longer period of time exposed to the thinner layer than an old person." Dr Eiser said that we must not forget that people saw sunbathing as a pleasurable activity. "We need to acknowledge



Taking the rays: From decorous days to skimpy bikinis and even nothing at all. How we have soaked up the sun or dressed carefully to avoid even the slightest rays penetrating clothing



the positive and negative," she said. "It is not enough to provide information. We need to give advice about dealing with others."

According to the Health Education Authority the message is beginning to get through. Only 38 per cent thought having a suntan was important in 1995 compared with 48 per cent five years earlier. Using a sunscreen

with a SPF of 7 or higher increased from 33 per cent to 48 per cent between 1990 and 1993.

The psychologists called for a whole change of attitude and said advertisers should shy away from using tanned models and that efforts should be made to make sunscreens cheaper.

Professor Eiser also urged the Government to work with travel companies to promote "healthy holidays". "I think there is potential for health educators to get alongside holiday companies and start changing attitudes," he said.

"At the moment we have 20-year-olds going for disco-holidays on the Costa del Sol. They're waiting to strip down and show

off their bodies. The whole notion of package holidays is getting people on to hot beaches. "We have to work carefully with the holiday industry to provide different kinds of options - travelling, sightseeing, activities - something generally other than lying there and cooking. It is a niche market but it can be built up and more people encouraged to do it."

Hue and cry over pursuit of golden look

TAMSI BLANCHARD
Fashion Editor

In the Seventies, a dark bronze suntan was as essential to a fashionable woman's wardrobe as a cheesecloth maxi dress, shiny lip gloss, or the skimpiest of string bikinis.

That was the decade of the all-over tan; the first time women basked in nothing but a layer of baby oil (plain old chip fat was considered an effective suntan lotion in the Innocent Seventies) and the tiniest G-string.

The post-war history of the suntan moves hand in hand with that of the bikini, which was named after the atomic bomb that was exploded near Bikini Atoll in 1946. The bikini and radiation are still inexorably linked as millions of women hook up their straps in search of the deep tan feel-good factor.

But golden hasn't always been the required shade for a fashionable skin. Elizabeth I looked positively alabaster-like compared with modern-day royals like Princess Diana or Sarah Ferguson. But then, you would never have seen Queen Bess sailing off to hotter climes with Walter Raleigh.

And while the Victorians loved spas for medicinal reasons, a pale complexion was considered more tasteful and upper crust than the ruddy, sun-kissed cheeks associated with peasant girls or railway navvies.

Indeed, well-heeled Victorians, who were the first to really discover travelling overseas for pleasure, would insist on sailing in the shade, port out, starboard home - thought to be the origin of the word posh.

The working people could go burn themselves all they liked in the new resorts of Blackpool and Brighton, but for toffs, parasols, panama hats and the chalky white skin of a Japanese Geisha girl were much more fashionable than a freckled nose.

The French Riviera is to blame for the tan as we know it today. The fast set took to motorcoring down to Deauville and, by the steaming summer of 1928,

sunbathing and tanning was *de rigueur*. It was not until the Sixties, however, that package holidays in Spain became accessible to the masses and the novelty of a Mediterranean suntan was something to be flaunted.

By the Seventies, things began to get out of hand. Men and women would use hair lightening products to make their hair look blonde and sun-soaked. Lotions were used to speed up a tan, rather than the sun screens, used nowadays to slow down the process. A deep tan also became the symbol of the downmarket package holiday-maker.

Bo Derek had the sun-drenched look to die for, as did Jerry Hall, Rod Stewart and the Bee Gees. Tom Jones has been building on his tan ever since. Despite all the health scares that dog sun worshippers, people still believe a tan, however light, is fashionable. The all-year round tan has become the norm, with people topping up their skin colour between trips abroad with the aid of sunbeds.

At The Tanning Shop, which has branches nationwide, over 750,000 customers book in for 2.5 million stand-up sunbed sessions each year.

Lisa Armstrong, associate editor of *Vogue*, says: "It's definitely not fashionable to be too well-done. Mahogany is out. It looks very old-fashioned to look stained, like you've spilled beer over yourself." Ms Armstrong is a great fan of fake tan; she does not dispute the fact that a tan makes your teeth look whiter and the whites of your eyes look whiter.

Fake tans have become remarkably sophisticated in the mid-Nineties, with spray-on lotions that react with the skin to tan you the same colour as the sun would. According to Ms Armstrong, "It's not the threat of cancer, but the threat of wrinkles that scares people and that shows how vain we are."

"We're still stuck on the belief that bronzed skin looks better than pallid skin, although if you have perfect skin, there is nothing more beautiful than the English rose."

Last voyage for Canberra, the Great White Whale of the Falklands

REBECCA FOWLER

The Great White Whale is preparing for her final voyage after 35 years of service on the waves. She carried a generation of emigrants to Australia; took British soldiers to battle; and hosted honeymooners on cruises around the world.

The owners of the Canberra, as the cruiser is officially known, have decided not to make costly safety changes to bring her up to modern standards. Instead she will retire after a last lap around the world in the autumn, and a career spanning more than 30 miles of sea.

Her fate is not entirely certain, but P&O Cruises, who commissioned the ship nearly four decades ago, are anxious the Canberra should avoid the scrap heap. They are negotiating alternative uses for her when she returns to Southampton for her retirement next

spring. "Canberra is now an elderly lady and although she remains a much loved ship, no vessel can continue indefinitely," said Gwyn Hughes, the managing director. "We very much hope the vessel will not be scrapped. Various organisations have approached us about possible uses for the ship. These include her becoming a floating hotel or a visitor centre."

The Canberra, dubbed the Whale by the troops who sailed in her during the Falklands conflict, cost £17m to build. She made her maiden voyage to Australia in 1961, carrying Britons who had saved up £10 a ticket for the promise of a new life.

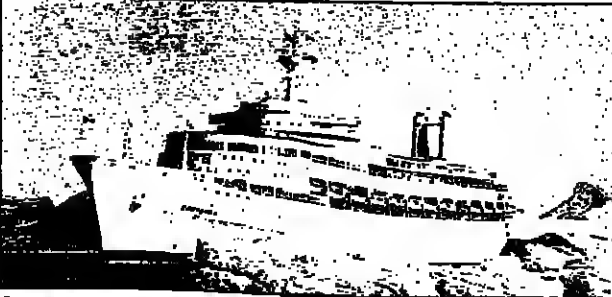
It was a short-lived success, and her career nearly ended prematurely in 1970, when the arrival of the Jumbo Jet opened up the skies for faster travel. Six Jumbos could carry as many a

people to Australia in a day as the Canberra could take in three weeks.

She was saved by a resurgence of interest in cruises among elderly couples and newlyweds. Rather than scrap the Canberra, P&O refitted her with a casino and transformed into a cruise ship. A timely boost to stirring inspired British holiday makers to book cruises places.

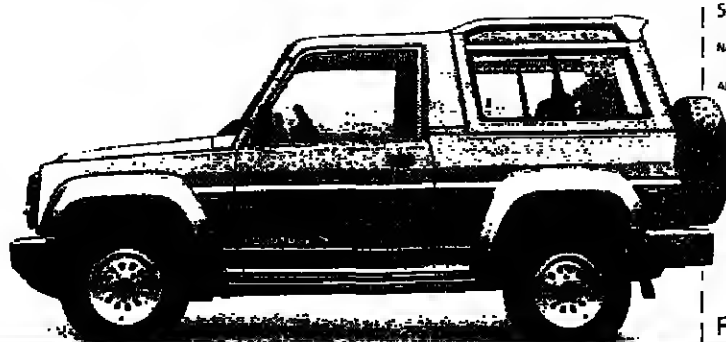
But it was for her role in the Falklands War in 1982 that she is best remembered, when she was called up as a troop ship, carrying 6,500 soldiers and 3,000 prisoners of war, and a hospital. The man who commanded her through the conflict, Captain Dennis Scott-Masson, said: "We are all moral. There has to be a time when she comes to the end of her life. For a ship like that to last for 35 years is quite remarkable."

Going with the flow: Canberra makes last trip in autumn



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news

Boy who won spurs in street market turns to football

Alan Sugar is set to quit Amstrad the company he created 28 years ago.
Patrick Toohar reports

Alan Sugar, the former East End barrow boy who became one of the City's most audacious and wealthiest wheeler-dealers, is set to quit Amstrad, the consumer electronics group that he founded 28 years ago.

The man who made his millions flogging cheap and cheerful hi-fi systems, cut-price personal computers and aesthetically challenged satellite dishes, is on the verge of selling his creation to Psion, the firm best known for its computerised personal organiser, for at least £240m. The deal would net him about £80m.

Mr Sugar apparently wants to devote more time to Tottenham Hotspur, the north London football club he controls, and to prepare for a High Court battle with England coach Terry Venables in the autumn.

Last night sources close to Mr Sugar sought to play down the significance of the pro-

posed sale. "He's not riding off into the sunset," an adviser insisted. "He'll continue his involvement with Amstrad in a deal-making capacity."

But Mr Sugar will not even have a seat on the board.

Amstrad was always his company - the company's name is an acronym of Alan Michael Sugar Trading. Having left school at 16, he began his business life selling car aerials from the back of a van in his native Hackney, east London.

From the outset, he followed his highly developed instinct to spot a gap in the market to make a fast buck. Mr Sugar once said: "We're interested in mass-merchandising anything. If there was a market in mass-produced nuclear weapons we'd market them too."

Amstrad was floated on the stock market in 1980 and quickly built up a reputation for exploiting the potential for cheap



Wheeler-dealer: Left, Sugar in 1986 on the crest of Amstrad's wave; right, Sugar and Venables, partners turned foes

but professional home computers and good-value audio and video equipment. To keep costs down, production was contracted out to the Far East.

At first the formula won him many City admirers and by 1988 he was worth an estimated £600m. But by the Nineties, recession and an influx of new competitors had driven computer prices down, leaving Amstrad horribly exposed.

The company made its first loss in the second half of 1991 as rivals such as IBM started to encroach on the market. Amstrad continued to struggle, losing money in the three years to 1994, though a decision to concentrate on mobile phones

and selling computers direct to the public helped make a small profit last year. Analysts suggested Mr Sugar's new-found enthusiasm for football was another reason for Amstrad's travails. Five years

For word processor, read Amstrad

For	Read
insulated flask	Thermos
adhesive tape	Sellotape
personal stereo	Walkman
vacuum cleaner	Hoover
tea-making alarm clock	Teasmade
photocopier	Xerox
four-wheel drive vehicle	Jeep
paper handkerchief	Kleenex
ballpoint pen	Biro
food mixer	Kenwood

ago he teamed up with Terry Venables to buy Tottenham Hotspur. While that partnership ended in acrimony, Mr Sugar's interest in the business potential of football has grown.

Perhaps more than any other football club chairman, he realises the potential goldmine in pay-per-view television. He was instrumental in securing an exclusive £670m deal with satellite broadcaster BSkyB to transmit live Premier League football into the next century.

The deal quadruples the television income of clubs like Spurs to about £10m a year. But

according to a survey by market research group Harris, when digital television is introduced to Britain within two years Spurs could earn up to £13m a year from viewers paying £10 a game.

But perhaps the most immediate explanation for Mr Sugar's decision to quit Amstrad is litigation. He is involved in a long-running legal battle with Terry Venables, and is bringing a High Court hearing in October claiming he was defamed in Venables' autobiography.

Surprise takeover, page 16.
Comment, page 17.

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Flood of hate mail horrifies Bonino

SARAH HELM
Brussels

Theoretically, the arguments over Europe are about sovereignty, economics, and high-falutin matters such as political vetoes or the future of Britain's fishing fleet. But a glance into the bulging postbag of Emma Bonino, the European Union's fisheries commissioner, reveals a reality that is rather more down to earth. Brussels officials are stunned by the extent of the British bile, which they are now seeing more of than ever before.

Germans, it is clear, are not the only Europeans who some Britons love to hate. Sexism, racism, and plain old-fashioned abuse: it's all here, in abundance. Typical is the letter from Catherine Straker, in Rye: "To Emma Bonino, fishing... Please go back to your own rotten mafia country and stay there, and stop being a public nuisance." Or the letter from Mr Hone, from near Grimsby, attaching a "Don't let Europe rule Britannia" sticker to his letter: "Dear Em, From recent reports it sounds as if you have caught BSE. Stop beefing, you silly old moo."

An unprecedented torrent of British hate has been pouring into Ms Bonino's postbag. Previously, "Yours, disgusted" of Tunbridge Wells has shown little inclination to post his thoughts all the way to distant Europe. Evidently, Mrs Bonino upset a lot of people when in May she announced proposals for a 40 per cent cut in the British fishing fleet to try to save Europe's fish stocks.

A witty smart-talking Italian, Mrs Bonino then further annoyed the Europhobes when she had the gall to go to Britain and set out the Commission's policy, explaining why it was the British government, not the Commission, which had sold out British fishermen.

But there is more to the torrent of abuse than that. Franz Fischer, the agriculture commissioner, who banned British beef, is not the object of attack. Mrs Bonino is Italian, and Italians are self-evidently dirty and cowardly. And, of course, it is she - not Mr Fischer - who is the "silly old moo" because she is a woman. "Your hygiene is not so high as it is in Britain, judging by reports in the press," says "British citizen" from West Sussex.

Italy is taking revenge for its defeat in the war, says Richard Swarbrick of Farnham, Surrey, who signs off saying, "regarding your nation and nationals with utmost hate and loathing." Mr Swarbrick has attached to his letter a drawing of the EU symbol, showing the ring of stars with a skull and cross-bones in the middle.

Mrs Bonino, a hardened human rights campaigner, admits she has been somewhat taken aback by the letters. She intends to reply to each. "I will thank them for their letters of disgust and then try to set out the facts," she says. In some respects the outbursts are positive sign, she argues, because at least Britons are now engaged in the debate directly with Brussels. And she says the letters have helped break down her own stereotyped view of English prejudices. "I always thought the British were so controlled and polite."

Cycle-friendly councils cash in

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, warned local authorities that they must implement cycle-friendly traffic schemes or face losing grants.

Speaking at a conference in London on creating safe routes for schoolchildren to walk or cycle to school, Sir George said that local authorities were recently issued with guidance which specified that they had to consider the needs of cyclists and pedestrians when drawing up grant applications. Grant applications from local authorities which failed to do so meant the authority "would be less likely to get the resources they want for their transport strategy".

Sir George told delegates that the Government supported the initiative of Sustrans, the organisation which is building the national cycle network with £43m of Millennium Commission funding, to also create "safe routes to school".

He said that two local authorities, Warwickshire and Waltham Forest in north-east

London have already been given grants to facilitate children cycling to school.

The idea behind "safe routes to school" is to create cycle routes on the main routes to schools to ensure that pupils can travel to school on their bikes. This would not only be beneficial for children because it is healthy exercise, but will also reduce traffic on the roads. Sir George said that 16 per cent of car journeys during the morning peak are children being accompanied to school. Reducing these journeys would have big impact on pollution and congestion.

While such ideas as safe routes to school used to be put forward only by radical transport planners and were rejected by the Government, ministers have now become accepted practice and most of the 350 delegates at the conference were from councils keen to carry out the work.

However, one speaker complained to Sir George that restrictive regulations put out by the Department of Transport prevented many schemes from being implemented.

صوتنا من الامم

Shortage of doctors a disaster for NHS

Dr Rae said: "It is an irony that we are coming to the age

■ A stress counselling telephone service set up by the BMA in response to demands from members received 800 calls in its first 10 weeks. Complaints about work-related stress were running at levels about four or five times higher than some other professions. The pilot scheme, which cost £250,000 annually, is to run for a year.

Majority reject private finance in health service

"If it's just 1 per cent of revenue per year, accumulated in 20 years time that's a hell of a percentage of our NHS," he said. The BMA's ruling council will now have to turn the view of its members into policy.

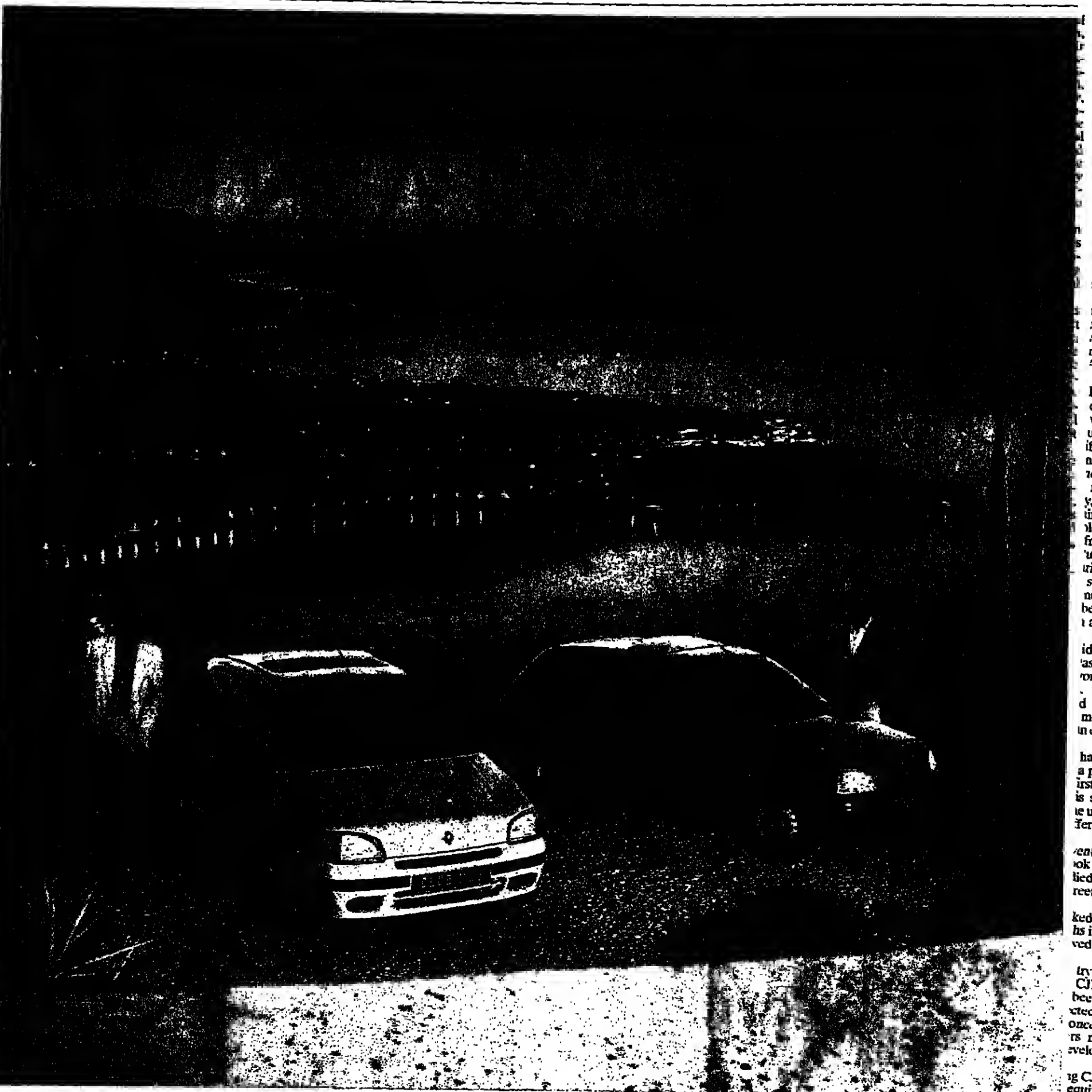
Eleanor Brown was born in 1969 and grew up in Scotland. She read English at York University and in 1993 received a Gregory Award from the Society of Authors. This sonnet to insomnia appears in her debut collection from Bloodaxe, *Maiden Speech* (£6.95).



Yesterday Mr Milligan returned to the garden to launch the appeal for new repairs and maintenance. He said: "In 1964, I took my daughter Laura to see



The tree is in the garden where the writer JM Barrie met the boys who were the inspiration for Peter Pan - whose own fairy, Tinkerbell, needed people only to clap to ensure her survival.



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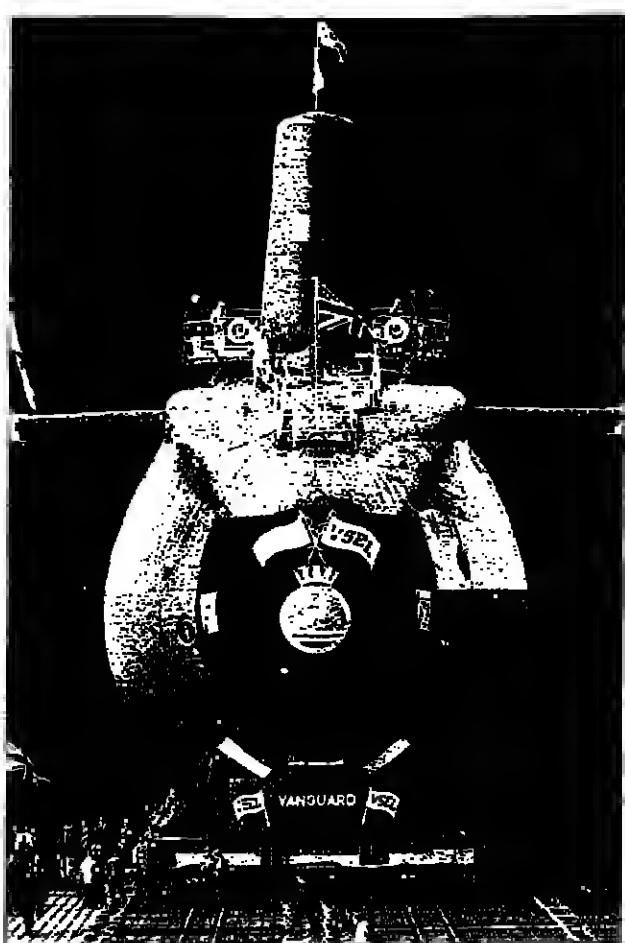
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22 6
s politics



Future assured: The Trident weapon Photograph: John Voos

Blair willing to pull Trident nuclear switch

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Defence Correspondent

Tony Blair agreed yesterday that there could be circumstances in which he would order the captain of a Trident submarine to pull the nuclear trigger switch.

"I don't think it is ever sensible for a prime minister to forecast those circumstances", the Labour leader said. "I believe in the nuclear deterrent."

Asked how he felt about the "awesome" responsibility which he would carry if he became the next prime minister with Labour committed to keeping Trident, he replied: "I regard it as - awesome."

Introducing his section of the Labour Party's foreign and defence policy document, *A Fresh Strategy for Britain*, yesterday, David Clark, the party's defence spokesman, said: "We will retain the British nuclear deterrent, Trident. When satis-

fied with verified progress towards our goal of a global elimination of nuclear weapons, we will ensure British nuclear weapons are included in such negotiations."

Meanwhile, Dr Clark said, Labour would continue the present Government's commitment to limit the number of British Trident warheads to 192 - three per missile on four submarines. Labour will also remain committed to Nato, to building up the role of the Western European Union as its European arm, oppose plans to give the European Union a military role, and continue to offer the United Kingdom's services for international peace-keeping.

Its most radical proposals related to the reform of the United Nations and increasing its ability to respond to crises quickly, including enlargement of the Security Council - of which Britain is one of the five

permanent members - reforming the UN Secretariat and a greater role for the UN in co-ordinating international economic, environmental and social policy.

Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, stressed the interdependence of foreign and security policy and foreign aid. "We make a big mistake if we imagine that foreign policy is less important to Britain because we are no longer a global power. It is even more important for our prosperity and security in the modern world that Britain pursues an active foreign policy. If Britain is no longer an imperial power then it is all the more important that we safeguard our security through alliances and maintain our influence through partnerships."

Robin Cook said that "there must be a broadening of the [UN] Security Council to make it more representative of the

world". Asked whether Germany should get a permanent seat, he said there was "certainly a respectable case" to be made, but that an additional German seat would increase the existing imbalance in favour of old European powers.

The document repeated Labour's cautious formula that a single European currency "could produce significant benefits", while omitting the Labour leadership's usual qualification that it would require the consent of the British people either in a referendum or a general election.

And, after a fierce internal battle between Joan Lester, spokeswoman on development issues, and Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, it contained a promise only to "start to reverse the decline in UK aid spending", with no timetable.

A Fresh Start for Britain: Labour's Strategy for Britain and the Modern World.



Tony Blair: Awesome responsibility Photograph: David Rose

Judges up the ante over asylum laws

HEATHER MILLS
Home Affairs Correspondent

Asylum seekers left destitute by the Government's controversial benefits crackdown have been unlawfully denied council housing, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

This - the second condemnation in five days of the UK's treatment of those fleeing persecution - deepens the gulf between the judiciary and the Government and undermines the unprecedented clampdown on would-be refugees.

Last week the same court said that Peter Lilley the Social Security Secretary had exceeded his powers when he withdrew all welfare benefits from most asylum seekers, describing the move as "draconian" and one "no civilised nation" should tolerate.

Mr Lilley's response was to announce emergency legislation to overturn the court's ruling - rather than appeal. But yesterday's judgement will fuel opposition to the changes being rushed through as amendments to the Asylum and Immigration Bill during its third reading in the Lords.

Labour and immigrants' rights groups, with wide support in the Lords, described Mr Lilley's action as an "abuse of process" and "immoral". After yesterday's ruling they called on the Government to rethink the plans.

But the Prime Minister yesterday defended the Government's policy towards asylum seekers, telling the Commons: "I believe that it is widely accepted that our policy is right. It removes benefits from three groups of people: illegal immigrants, people who enter this country on condition that they said they could support them-

selves and people who have already been found not to be genuine refugees."

Yesterday's ruling centred on four London local authorities, who, because the Government had withdrawn housing benefit, had withdrawn emergency council housing. But the ruling said that the authorities must treat penniless asylum seekers as in "priority need" and not leave them on the streets.

Lord Justice Simon Brown said: "I see no good reason why someone likely to suffer injury or detriment through a total inability to clothe, feed or shelter himself should be any less entitled to priority housing than someone vulnerable through age or disability."

The court said it had "the greatest sympathy with the difficulties faced by the housing authorities who have limited means to discharge their many responsibilities".

But they had erred in law by construing the provisions of the 1985 Housing Act in such a way as wrongly to exclude asylum seekers from the category of persons who had a priority need for housing.

Chris Holmes, director of Shelter, said the ruling highlighted the "crazy contradictions" in current benefit policy. "This judgement shows that while one department is slashing benefit and creating a new group of vulnerable people, another department is forced to pick up the tab."

About 8,000 people have been denied benefits since the changes were first introduced last February and refugee charities say many have had to choose between returning to the countries where they feared for their lives - or staying in Britain as "beggars of the worst kind".

Portillo faces Tory revolt

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

More than 60 Tory MPs last night were threatening a rebellion against plans by Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, for the £1.5bn sale of armed forces married quarters in an end-of-term revolt.

Supporters of John Redwood denied they were behind the rebellion to undermine Mr Portillo's support on the right of the party, but the row could do lasting harm to his chances in a Tory leadership contest.

One of the principal organisers of a Commons motion protesting at the sale, Julian Brazier, was a strong supporter of Mr Redwood. It was also signed by David Evans, the Parliamentary aide to Mr Redwood when he was a Cabinet minister.

"The purpose of this exercise is to get money for the Treasury. I haven't rebelled often, but I would be prepared to rebel against this," said Mr Brazier.

Tory MPs from both wings of the party signalled their opposition to Mr Portillo's plan. Those signing the Commons motion included Sir Keith Speed, a former defence minister, and senior members of the backbench 1922 Committee. Labour was threatening to

force a vote on the issue before the Commons goes into summer recess in late July.

"We will do everything in our power to defeat the Government and stop this mad scheme going ahead," said David Clark, the Shadow defence secretary.

The Prime Minister appeared to give his firm backing to the sale when it came under fire from Tony Blair in the Commons. "The reason this has been pushed through with such indecent haste is nothing to do with the armed forces. It is to do with the Chancellor's need to plug the hole in the nation's finances," said the Labour leader.

It would undermine morale among the armed forces and could damage defence planning, he warned. But the Prime Minister said: "He is just wrong about this. Neither has this suddenly arisen. It is a matter which has been under consideration for a number of years in release resources to the Exchequer."

But opponents said the sale of the armed forces houses was rejected by former defence ministers Lord Cranborne and Jonathan Aitken. It was revived by Mr Portillo in the face of stiff opposition from Lord Bramall, the former chief of the defence staff, the Royal British Legion and the Army Families Federation.

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Coming soon to your TV: Emma II

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Correspondent

When Jane Austen had the idea for *Emma*, she observed that she had conceived a heroine whom no-one but herself would mock like. But time has proved her wrong: and now generations have fallen in love with Austen's headstrong character, she is about to be reborn. The updating of *Emma* - a task bordering on the sacrosanct - is being carried out by Rachel Billington, Lord Longford's novelist daughter, who is writing a sequel entitled *Perfect Happiness*. As if that were not enough, Andrew Davies, who wrote the BBC adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* starring Colin Firth and Jennifer Ehle, is writing a screenplay of *Emma* to be shown on ITV later this year. This will coincide with a tie-in Penguin edition of the novel and a book, *The Making of Emma*.

Rather like Lizzy Bennet, Emma is one of Austen's most contemporary heroines - spirited, independent, intelligent. Nevertheless, Billington found the task of bringing her story up to date fraught with problems.

Discussions took place over whether to reproduce the style of spelling and punctuation which characterises work of the Regency period and over how much to imbue the sequel with 20th century sensibility.

But the most fundamental problem was plot. Austen's novels are about women in the process of courtship. *Emma* ends as the heroine agrees to marry the headmasterly Mr Knightley. How would Austen have written about such a married heroine? And, given her negative portrayals of minor characters such as those of Mr and Mrs Bennet, Mary and Charles Musgrove, or Mr Collins and Charlotte Lucas in *Pride and Prejudice*, could Mr and Mrs Knightley hope to

fare any better?

"I did feel there was going to be problems in the marriage," Billington told the *Bookmaker*, referring to Knightley's didactic tendencies. "There's a lot said in *Emma* about how good he is, and how bad she is - and that's a pretty dicey basis for a marriage."

As in the original, Billington's novel revolves around misunderstandings. Frank Churchill returns to Highbury following the death of his wife, Jane Fairfax, and his relationship with Emma again becomes open to misinterpretation. Emma suspects that he is attracted to the flighty Harriet Smith, Emma is restless and Mr Knightley is not.

Billington found most inspiration in Austen's letters, which gave her much of the raw material which the novelist herself drew on. But unlike Austen's characters, who tend to oscillate around Bath and Lyme rather than London, Billington takes Emma to the capital.

"Jane Austen herself was spending quite a lot of time there, and *Emma* was dedicated to the Prince Regent, at his invitation. She was taken to what I suppose was Clarence House by his librarian, so it seemed logical to me that Emma in a sequel would have had a wider experience and made and met a different sort of person," she says.

But Billington has not conceded much to what Austen might regard as the coarser tastes of the day when it comes to sex. Austen referred to that activity by the most elaborate indirection, and Billington does her best to follow suit.

"I've tried to do the same but gone a little further down the road because that seemed right given it is a married couple we're talking about. The book is not a pastiche from the 20th century. I've genuinely tried to feel myself into the story and the characters."

The Classic Sequel Frenzy

Elinor and Marianne
Emma Tennant's sequel to Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, in which everything goes hilariously to pot. Col Brandon is packed off to Wales, and Elinor and Marianne prove unequal to fending off their respective in-laws and coping with the return of the scoundrel Willoughby.

Pemberley
Emma Tennant again, this time penning the sequel to Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Lizzy cannot conceive, with under criticism, panics in company and flaps about domestic arrangements. Luckily, by means of numerous twists and turns, all's well in the end.

An Unequal Marriage
Emma Tennant once again - her sequel to the sequel of *Pride and Prejudice*: taking up the story 17 years after Darcy and Lizzy wed, this tells the story of the next generation: Edward, their son and heir, is a 16-year-old Etonian delinquent, while Lizzy and Darcy fall out.

Mrs de Winter
Susan Hill's sequel to Daphne du Maurier's classic novel *Rebecca*. After spending the war in Switzerland, the de Winters return to England to acquire a new country house, an Elizabethan manor. Unfortunately Mrs Danvers, the housekeeper from hell, returns.

When follow-ups can't be written

DAVID LISTER

On Winston Smith and Julia look back at 1984 from the council house they bought under the Thatcher legislation, chuckling together about their *annus horribilis*?

How did the train driver who mowed down Anna Karenina come to terms with his failure to apply the brakes?

These, one sincerely hopes, are among the unwritable sequels. But who knows? If Susan Hill can take the dead housekeeper from *Rebecca* and write a "prequel" about her childhood, then few novels are safe from further exploitation.

Some writers, though, have anticipated the danger and have made their works as near sequel-proof as is aesthetically possible.

Shakespeare had a prophetic fear of the sequelists, and systematically killed off his most charismatic characters. So we are spared the adulteries and eventual divorce of Romeo and Juliet, and the mellowing of the middle-aged Macbeths, though Tom Stoppard, of course, found scope in two of the minor characters from *Hamlet*.

Dickens has, so far, been avoided by the sequel writers. Unlike the female classic

novelists, Austen and the Brontës, who leave scope in their characters' youthful couplings for unresolved later difficulties, Dickens tended to complete the job. His characters are too emotionally exhausted for sequels. *Oliver Twist* was never going to run away from home in his teens having gone through rather a lot to find home in the first place.

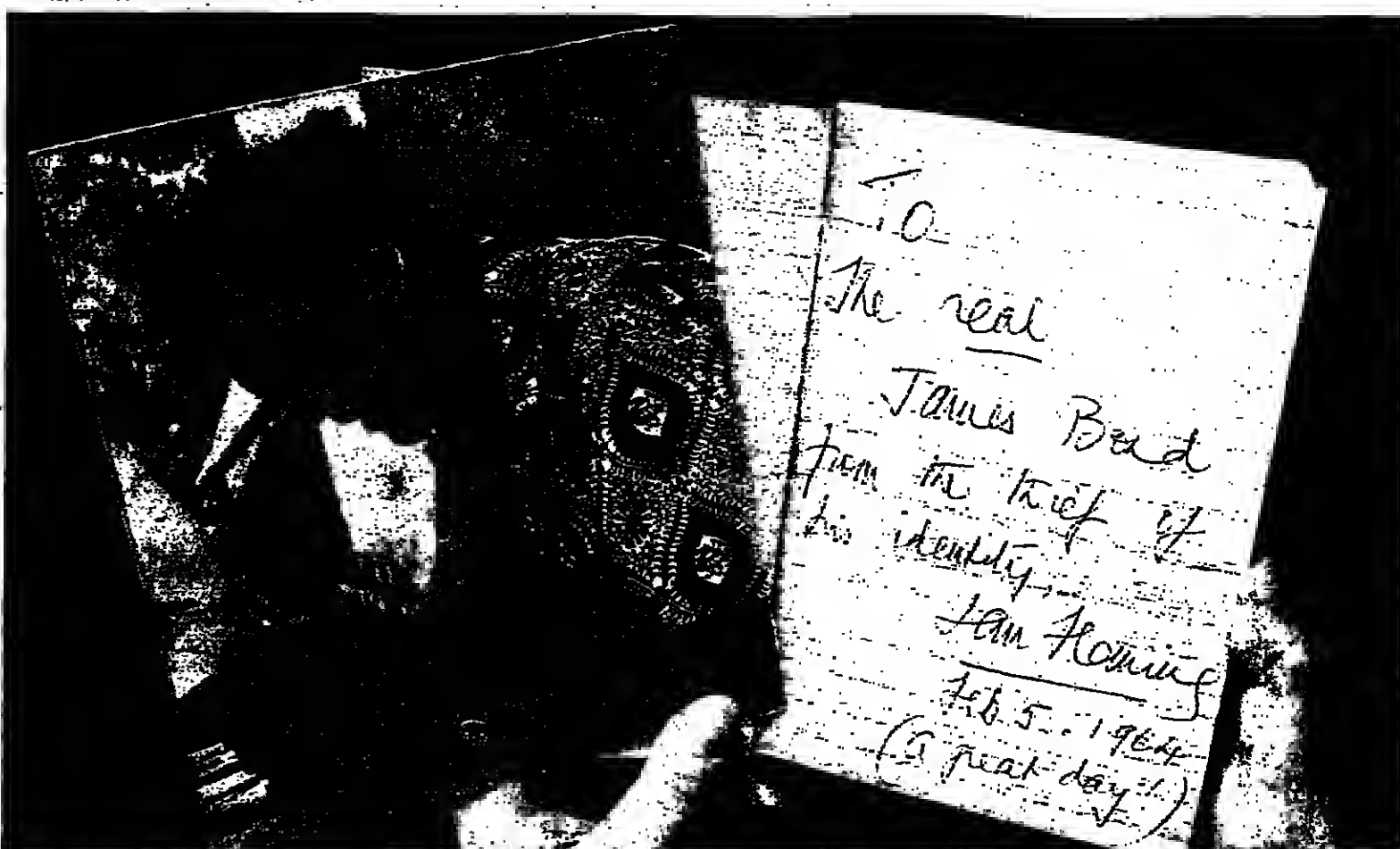
But there is a wealth of lucrative potential that the sequel writers have failed to spot. Surely there is a budding playwright out there who could speculate in Beckett's sparse but lyrical style what happened when Godot actually turned up.

There must be a Joycean who can detail Bloom's morning after, a Bloomsburynian who can agonise about the trip back from the lighthouse, or a student of Pinter willing to take the caretaker on the train to Sidcup to pick up his papers.

And then there is the ultimate challenge for Rachel Billington, Susan Hill and the rest. Pastiche Austen and Du Maurier demands skill, but is a safe choice of career. Now, a sequel to *The Satanic Verses*...

That demands real stylistic ability. I wonder why no one has tried?

A thank you... from the man with the golden pen



Collector's items: The real James Bond, skinning a cuckoo, and the prized inscription to him by author Ian Fleming. Photograph: Peter Macdonald

A unique edition of Ian Fleming's novel *You Only Live Twice*, which was inscribed by the author to the real James Bond, is expected to fetch up to £8,000 when it is auctioned at Sotheby's in a fortnight.

Fleming met the real Bond, an American ornithologist, only once, at the former's Jamaican mansion, Goldeneye, and it was on this occasion that Fleming inscribed the novel: "To the real James Bond from the thief of his identity, Ian Fleming, Feb 5 1964. (a great day!)"

In 1961 Fleming wrote to Bond's widow, Mary Wickham Bond, whose signature graces the book: "I was determined that my secret agent should be as anonymous a personality as possible... it struck me that this name, brief, unromantic and yet very masculine, was just what I needed."

Though Bond, who catalogued the birds of Jamaica, was shy and self-effacing, as his fictional namesake's fame grew he found himself waved through at customs at the mere mention of his name and telephoned in the middle of the night by women or whispering, "Is James there?"

A photograph of Ian Fleming and James Bond at their remarkable meeting will be sold with the book when it is auctioned on July 11 at Sotheby's sale of English Literature and History.



"Will a 14-year-old

sociopath

bring my company
to its knees?"



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Solutions for a small planet

Portillo face
Tory revolt

international S t Germans puzzled by British tabloid blitz

IMRE KARACS
Bonn

Fantasy football wars: Media respond in kind to English jibes but stop short of mentioning the War

"The fatal defect in cows' brains seems to have transferred to the two-legged inhabitants on the island." It was the only rational explanation the Cologne tabloid *Express* could offer for the outbreak of lunacy among its British equivalents.

"England declares football war on us," screamed the nation's leading tabloid, *Bild Zeitung*, splashing the *Daily Mirror*'s picture of Gazza in helmet on its front page. "Where did they find a helmet big enough?" wondered Andy Köpke, the German team's goal-keeper.

The moment had come for

Germany to fight back, to launch a satirical blitzkrieg against those cocky *Engländer* who had been hurling insults at the German people ever since their cows were relegated from the markets of Europe.

Bild tried the hardest. By yesterday morning, its top guns had come up with "11 Questions to the English" - 11 jibes designed to send Fleet Street's most scurrilous scribes running for their Biers. Here is a small sample: "Why do you wear your swimming costumes in the sauna?" "How can your former colonies beat you at cricket?"

"When did an Englishman last win at Wimbledon?"

Biting stuff, this, and there was more. *Bild*'s super-sleuths, no strangers to making up stories themselves, discovered that the "Germany embassy spokesman" quoted by the *Mirror* as saying that "we surrender" was in fact the embassy porter, and had said no such thing.

Away from the fantasy league, British efforts to undermine morale in the enemy camp may have had the opposite effect. German fans approached *Euro 96* with uncharacteristic timidity, and violence so far has been limited to skirmishes in southern Germany between native thugs and the flower of Croatia's youth. Now the hardcore hoolies who had originally decided to give Wembley a miss may find the lure of gun-powder wafting across the Channel hard to resist.

What effect all this has had on the morale of the German players will only become clear tonight, but one suspects that the enemy salves might well have stiffened resolve among a team wracked by self-doubt so far. Berti Vogts, the manager, entered the spirit of the occasion

yesterday by promising not to wave the white flag. Stefan Kunz, the striker, struck a more ominous tone. "Let the English enjoy themselves now, because the fun will be all over for them Wednesday evening," he said.

Alas, that was the limit of the Hun's effort to even the score in the propaganda war. Not even Germany's least sophisticated newspaper dared plunge to depths as low as its British counterparts. Of wars *Bild* made no mention. Instead of a rousing call to arms, *Bild*'s menacing headlines were merely followed by a lament. The team had played badly against the Croats, lost General Klinsmann to injury, and, as in the Battle of Britain, England were proving a lot more resilient than strategists had anticipated.

Making fun of other nations is not really a German thing, and scoring points by evoking past conflicts is deemed distasteful. In Germany, two weeks of football have produced only one pathetic epithet - against the "Pizzas" who held the Germans to a draw in the first round. Jingoism, on the evidence of the two nations' press, is performed with much greater

No, the Germans don't get it, although judging by yesterday's evidence, they are beginning to learn. Rather than fanning the flames of nationalism, down-market papers are giving their readers crash courses on British humour, and trying to explain that all those racist jokes are meant as a harmless bit of fun.

Jokes apart, today's match has great historic significance. "It's a big event," says Michael Reichert, a caterer. "It's taken us 30 years to get the bastards." "What about settling scores for another defeat, 51 years ago," I ask. "The war? Oh, that was too long ago."

Match previews, Sport pull-out, pages 1-4

Peking calls for Bonn's atonement

TERESA POOLE
Peking

Until a few weeks ago, Peking viewed its relationship with Germany as a model for China's links with Western countries. But by yesterday Bonn had joined the club of governments around the world ordered by Peking to take unspecified "concrete and effective measures" to atone for alleged misbehaviour.

Since last week's resolution in the German parliament, which condemned China's "policy of repression in Tibet" and called for the protection of Tibetan culture, the two countries have engaged in tit-for-tat diplomatic snubs. China at the weekend damned the resolution as "perverse" and halted a planned visit next month by the German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel. Bonn retaliated by cancelling planned visits to China by the Construction and Environment Ministers, and also froze scheduled meetings between German and Chinese senior military officers.

Mr Kinkel said that the resolution's reference to the Tibetan government-in-exile was not a vote for Tibetan independence. "We want Tibet to



Return journey: A woman leaving the Sungai Besi refugee camp in Kuala Lumpur on the bus that took Malaysia's last 22 Vietnamese boatpeople to the airport for a flight to Hanoi yesterday. More than 250,000 Vietnamese landed in Malaysia after fleeing Communist rule in rickety boats when United States troops withdrew in April 1975. The United Nations has said that funding to governments for such camps will be 'drastically curtailed' from 30 June and other countries in South-East Asia are also moving out refugees. Photograph: David Portnoy/AP Photo

Red tape ploy could save UN chief

DAVID USBORNE
New York

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, whose hopes for a second term as Secretary-General of the United Nations have been all but crushed by the threat of an American veto, could yet be saved by a procedural ploy that was engineered - and here lies the potential for rare irony - by Washington itself.

The scenario, if it were played out, it could render extraordinary damage to the UN at a time when it is already in frail health. But as Mr Boutros-Ghali tours world capitals looking for support to defy the United States - he is currently in London - it is increasingly being discussed in the corridors of UN headquarters in New York.

What diplomats are pondering is the possibility of replay of events in 1950 when the Soviet Union resolutely opposed the re-election for a second term of the UN's first Secretary-General, Trygve Lie, because of his stand against the Communist invasion of South Korea. The Security Council, which under the UN Charter must recommend a Secretary-General to the full General Assembly, became deadlocked after Moscow blocked Mr Lie with a veto.

What followed was on the urging of Washington, even though it was in clear contravention of the Charter. In a rushed vote, the General Assembly approved the re-appointment of the Norwegian by a large majority. Mr Lie resumed his duties in January 1951. Moscow and the Communist governments refused to recognise him, however, and he resigned in 1953.

Mr Boutros-Ghali, who met the Prime Minister, John Major, last night before holding talks this morning with the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, appears determined to thwart the American decision to oust him. With little chance of Washington changing its mind, the Trygve Lie formula appears to be his only route to salvation.

"He might just try and do it," one ambassador to the UN privately conceded yesterday. "But he must know that a fight like that could cause the most appalling damage to the institution."


Indeed, the diplomatic fallout from such a manoeuvre would seem almost inconceivable. It could lead to an American boycott of the sitting Secretary-General of the UN which, in turn, would virtually guarantee a complete shut-off of further US funding for the organisation. "You must remember that 1950 was a different era," the ambassador said.

Economic considerations aside, however, there is a deep well of anti-American sentiment in the UN, particularly among developing countries, that makes re-enacting the 1950 script more believable. There is outrage over the perceived arrogance of Washington in seeking to block Mr Boutros-Ghali at a time when the US is mostly responsible for the UN's parlous financial state. Nor is it forgotten that it was Washington that orchestrated the precedent that prolonged Trygve Lie's tenure.

Mr Boutros-Ghali, meanwhile, is giving the impression of striving to amass support on his side. He was endorsed for a second term by last week's Arab summit in Cairo and is expected to be given a warm reception at the summit of the Organisation of African Unity in Cameroon next month. France has expressed surprise at Washington's antipathy towards him.

So far the British Government has declined to take a stance but few expect that it will attempt to stand in President Bill Clinton's way.

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Mysteries unravel as mafiosi spill secrets

Italy's new government has gangsters on the run, writes Andrew Gumbel

Rome - It is confession time in Italy. The latest mafioso to turn state's evidence, Calogero Ganci, has owned up to more than 100 violent crimes and shed valuable new light on a series of high-profile killings from General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa in 1982 to Judge Giovanni Falcone a decade later.

Meanwhile, a former Red Brigade terrorist called Germano Maccari has come clean after three years of agonising soul-searching and admitted that he was the hitherto shady "fourth man" in the kidnapping and murder of the Christian Democrat leader Aldo Moro in 1978. For the first time, he talked about the intricate planning that went into building the various hide-outs where Moro was hidden during his 55 days in captivity, and gave a detailed description of the shooting which finished him off.

There are indications, too, that another great Italian mystery is edging closer towards elucidation. Last week a London-based mafioso called Francesco Di Carlo was extradited from Britain to Italy to give evidence about the death of Roberto Calvi, the corrupt banker found hanging beneath Blackfriars bridge in London in 1981. The Italian courts have consistently recorded a verdict of suicide but, according to judicial sources, Di Carlo may now be about to confess to Calvi's murder.

It may be that the timing of these admissions is fortuitous but, in a country as contorted and conspiracy-ridden as Italy, that seems unlikely. What links them, if nothing else, is the arrival of a new centre-left government - a government made up of parties and interest groups that have been working for years from the opposition benches to combat the Mafia and clear up the mysteries that have plagued the health of Italy's democracy for the past quarter of a century.

The prospect of a more authoritative state, guided by a government set to last rather longer than the miserable post-war average of 10 months, will almost certainly have emboldened a man such as Ganci, whose confessions have alien-

ated him completely from his family and friends and have left him entirely at the mercy of the state's witness protection programme.

It has undoubtedly emboldened the magistrates who have been working in virtual isolation to tease out the well-protected secrets behind such mysteries as the shooting down of a civilian



Ganci: His confessions have started Italy

airliner north of Sicily in 1980, or the series of unresolved bombings that began in the Piazza Fontana in Milan as early as 1968.

"A healthy democracy should not have dark spots muddying its past. A strong government will certainly make it easier to shed light on these events," commented Marco Minniti, national co-ordinator for the main left-wing party in power, the PDS.

Since Romano Prodi's government entered office a month ago, the most palpable advance has been in the fight against the Mafia. Apart from Ganci's confessions, police have arrested one of Cosa Nostra's most ruthless killers, Giovanni Brusca, as well as Giovanni Riina, son of the Sicilian Mafia's super-boss turned super-convict, Totò Riina. The feeling is that the Corleonesi clan, which ran Cosa

Nostra's anti-state terror in the Eighties and Nineties, is definitively in retreat.

In truth, the retreat began in 1992 in the wake of the Falcone killing, which so shocked the nation that it mobilised a massive police and judicial operation to track down the culprits. But the anti-Mafia push suffered a damaging period of thumb-twiddling once Silvio Berlusconi's conservative government came to power in 1994. One of Mr Berlusconi's closest associates, Marcello Dell'Utri, is now under investigation for collusion with the Mafia, as is his party's chief representative in Palermo, Francesco Musotto.

In the political vacuum which preceded April's general election, the anti-Mafia effort virtually ground to a halt. The trial of Giulio Andreotti, Italy's most prominent post-war politician accused of Mafia patronage and murder, hit a brick wall back in January and did not resume until two weeks ago. Now, Andreotti first appeared in court, the case is at last proceeding at a reasonable pace.

And what of the Mafia's future? Certainly, its "military wing", as prosecutors call the likes of Totò Riina, is breaking up at a spectacular rate. But it would be wrong to assume that the whole organisation is under threat. Illegal trade in drugs and arms is by all accounts booming, especially in Eastern Europe and the former Yugoslavia, and the closed atmosphere of protection rackets and *omertà* that has characterised southern Italy for so long shows no sign of lifting.

"It wouldn't be the first time that the Mafia had hidden itself in its own territory," said the chief prosecutor of Palermo, Gian Carlo Caselli, this week. "Going underground might put an end to the terrorist wave and the series of illustrious corpses, but only to lower the guard of the state authorities."

In other words, the real war against the Mafia, the war for the hearts and minds of Sicilian society as a whole, is far from being resolved.

صكنا من الامل

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Botswana's army chief defeated the purchase of tanks and combat aircraft yesterday, saying the country had a right to decide its military needs for itself. Lieutenant-General Ian Khama made the remarks after criticism from neighbouring Namibia over Botswana's purchase of 13 SF-5 fighter-bombers from Canada and its attempts to buy 50 German-made Leopard tanks and other weaponry from the Netherlands. A Botswana military source who did not want to be identified said the deal with the Dutch was worth about \$15m (£10m). Canada has said the aircraft are worth \$50m. "We are the ones to say what is and what is not necessary for Botswana," General Khama said. "We were made attractive offers that we could afford."

General Khama added that the purchases had nothing to do with a long-standing border dispute with Namibia, which the two countries have taken to the World Court in The Hague. *Gaborone — Reuters*

A herbal medicine may have killed the virus that causes Aids in one patient, cured paralysis in another and made some patients well enough to return home, doctors in China said yesterday.

But they said it was too early to proclaim the drug — Saidefu — a cure for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome because it had only undergone clinical trials for three months. "We have tested five patients, and found an Aids serum antigen turn to negative from positive in one patient," Shao Yiming, a researcher at the China Academy of Preventive Medicine, said in a telephone interview.

"This is only an initial result and does not mean that the medicine is effective because the trial treatment was too short and medical samples too few," he said. *Peking — Reuters*

Greece's Prime Minister faces strong opposition in his push to control the ruling Socialist party after the death of the party's founder, Andreas Papandreu.

The Pasok party will start a congress tomorrow to elect Papandreu's replacement as the party leader and Constantinos Simitis is running neck-and-neck with the Interior Minister, Akis Tsoulatzopoulos. "Simitis may be the logical choice but an increasing number of delegates feel that he can't be both Prime Minister and Pasok president," a senior Pasok official said. *Athens — Reuters*

The head of the OSCE said Bosnia's elections would take place on 14 September. The chairman of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Swiss Foreign Minister, Flavio Cotti, said he was giving the go-ahead for the polls to take place in line with the timetable set out in the Dayton peace accord.

Meanwhile, in the first clear sign that Radovan Karadzic plans to step down, one of his top aides said the Bosnian Serb leader was ready to "surrender his power" in the interest of his people. Mr Karadzic has defied international pressure to give up his leadership post. *Vienna — Reuters*

The widow of the slain Chechen rebel leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, is likely to seek asylum in Finland, a newspaper reported yesterday. According to the daily *Helsingin Sanomat*, a family friend said Alla Dudayeva is in hiding in another country. She fled Moscow this month together with her 13-year-old son. Ms Dudayeva's late husband led the republic's drive to secede from Russia. *Helsinki — AP*

Slovenia moved closer towards winning membership of the European Union yesterday after the former Yugoslav republic gained associate membership of the EU's fledgling defence wing. Slovenia becomes the 19th associate partner of the Western European Union (WEU). *Brussels — Reuters*

The percentage of Latin Americans living in absolute poverty continues to increase in spite of the improved overall economic performance in that region, a World Bank analyst said. "Latin America stands out as a region where absolute poverty doesn't show any sign of improvement," said Shabid Javed Burki, the bank's vice president for Latin America. Mr Burki said the percentage of Latin Americans living in absolute poverty increased from 22 per cent in 1987 to 23.5 per cent in 1993. *Washington — AP*

The trial of five men accused of the 1992 murder of three Kurdish opposition leaders in Berlin took a surprise twist yesterday when Tehran said it would allow witnesses living in Iran to testify at the German embassy there. Defence lawyers had been trying for a year to get Iran to allow the witnesses to testify but prosecutors were sceptical about Tehran's decision, believing it could be a ploy to influence the trial. The high-profile case has put a considerable strain on German-Iranian relations. *Berlin — Reuters*

Afganistan's President has asked the cabinet to resign today to allow one of his mafia foes to form an interim peace-seeking ministerial team, a presidential spokesman said. Aziz Morad also said Burhanuddin Rabbani had asked some ministers to stay in office as caretakers for the transitional period for a couple of days. Mr Rabbani said Hezb-i-Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was due in Kabul today to resume his post as prime minister, ending a two-and-a-half year armed revolt. *Kabul — Reuters*

The editor of a Rome newspaper has been indicted on charges of abetting prostitution, for carrying classified advertisements for sexual services.

In a front-page commentary yesterday, Giovanni Motola of *Il Tempo* said it was "rather odd if not worrisome" to be the first editor prosecuted for a crime "committed daily by every other editor." Many newspapers carry similar classified while television stations broadcast advertisements from telephone sex lines. He could face two-and-a-half years imprisonment if convicted. *Rome — AP*



Open wide: Tourists enjoy the view from the jaws of the mythical Merlion in Singapore yesterday. The 37m-tall re-creation of a creature combining a mermaid and a lion opened last month. Photograph: Jonathan Drake/Reuters

Lebed sees off another 7 generals

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

Fresh from flushing out a cluster of hardliners from his innermost circle, Boris Yeltsin yesterday pressed on with his campaign to win last-minute votes in next week's presidential election run-off by firing seven army generals.

Among those to get their marching orders in what has become one of Russia's biggest recent shake-ups in national security were four officers accused by Mr Yeltsin's new right-hand man, Alexander Lebed, of trying to organise resistance to last week's dismissal of the Defence Minister, General Pavel Grachev.

The move is another example of General Lebed's sweeping powers in his new job as secretary of the policy-making Security Council and national security adviser — posts which Mr Yeltsin handed him in the hope of winning over a large slice of his nearly 11 million voters in the election's first round. Although Mr Yeltsin did the firing, there is little doubt that it was at the burly former paratrooper's behest.

Yesterday, Mr Yeltsin underscored his protégé's new powers in his annual address to the Federal Assembly in which he emphasised that he had conferred all responsibility for national security policy on the Security Council and had instructed General Lebed "to co-ordinate, prepare, pass and implement day-to-day decisions concerning national security".

Although the council held these powers before, the President appears anxious to spell out General Lebed's sweeping authority — a move which will alarm those critics of the Kremlin who fear that its newest arrival is being given far too much power.

Mr Yeltsin's strategy is mostly about winning votes for next Wednesday's run-off in the presidential race against the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov. But it may also be an attempt to show he is moving to bring the 4-million-strong military and security services under one overall control, a policy that parts of the military have long called for. A notable advocate of this view is General Igor Rodionov, General Lebed's preferred candidate as the next Minister of Defence.

At the moment, General Lebed seems to be riding high, getting what he asks for. Mr Yeltsin even obliged him yesterday by booting out two officials from the Security Council. His list of scalps — and, now, powerful enemies — already includes four top Kremlin hawks: General Grachev; General Alexander Korzhakov, the head of the presidential guard; the chief of the Federal Security Service, General Mikhail Barsukov; and Oleg Soskovets, a First Deputy Prime Minister.

Now the general can claim that he has almost fulfilled his goal of getting rid of the officers whom he accused of trying to resist the firing of General Grachev, his arch-enemy.

Although General Lebed has watered down his claim that they were trying to cook up a *coup d'état* by trying to persuade General Grachev to place the army on red alert, he was clearly determined to see them go. Their departure marks a clear-out of Grachev loyalists. All eyes are now on the next defence minister.

Among those tipped are General Rodionov, head of the General Staff Academy; General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, commander of Russian forces in Chechnya and the armed forces' chief military expert, General Konstantin Kobets.

Ex-MP's suicide plea fuels euthanasia row

BRADLEY PERRETT
Reuters

Canberra — An Australian politician with Aids said yesterday he wants an assisted death, but the government is considering quashing the world's first euthanasia law which would allow it.

"I hope that I can hold out my arm ... one day and have a little needle which takes me off quietly and peacefully after I've said my farewells," Paul O'Grady, who retired from New South Wales's state parliament in January, said on television. "That's how I'd like to do it."

But the Prime Minister, John Howard, told federal government politicians that Canberra might use its constitutional power to quash a Northern Territory law that will legalise assisted suicides when it comes into effect on Monday.

Mr O'Grady, 35, became a national celebrity in 1990 when he freely discussed his homosexuality in the media. The publicity did no obvious harm to him or the Labor Party, and the influential left-wing member of the party was re-elected in 1995.

Although the euthanasia law comes into effect on Monday, doctors and churches have challenged it in the territory's Supreme Court. Even if the challenge fails, the law's seven-day "cooling-off" period on requests for assisted suicides cannot happen until at least a week later.

Mr Howard said the government would seek to have the case moved to the country's highest tribunal, the High Court. But the territory, unlike Australia's six states, is a constitutional subsidiary of the federal government, so Canberra can simply override its laws without resorting to a court.

Under the law, passed in February, doctors may administer lethal injections to terminally ill patients who want to end their lives. Opponents had argued that that the territory's capital, Darwin, would become Australia's death capital.

An opinion poll last year showed more than 70 per cent of Australians backed legal euthanasia, but doctors fighting the law say it has the support of only 20 per cent of the territory's 400 doctors.

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Netanyahu not ready to bow to US pressure

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, yesterday held his first talks with Benjamin Netanyahu, the newly elected Israeli prime minister, in an attempt to salvage the peace accords between Israel and the Palestinians and to continue negotiations with Syria.

The United States also wants to smooth over its differences with Mr Netanyahu following its overt support for Shimon Peres, his opponent in last month's election. Mr Christopher announced that Mr Netanyahu will visit President Bill Clinton in Washington on 9 July.

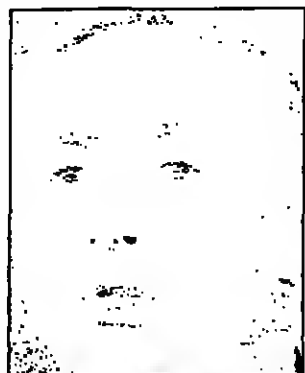
Even as Mr Christopher's aircraft landed yesterday morning the prime minister's office curtly announced that "there is no intention to present any [Israeli] positions in Secretary of State Christopher during his visit". It added that it was the American administration which requested the meeting with Mr Netanyahu.

Underlining that his government would not be pressured by the US, Mr Netanyahu said later that his policy of "peace with security" had won a solid mandate in the election. He said that he was willing to resume talks with the Palestinians and Arab states without preconditions, though he has spelt out Israel's determination to concede nothing on the Golan issue, Jerusalem or a Palestinian state.

On his flight from Washington Mr Christopher said the US wanted Mr Netanyahu to meet

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, adding: "I am not going to make a precise recommendation about how he goes about it." Asked about this, Mr Netanyahu repeated his position that he might meet Mr Arafat if it was necessary for Israeli security.

Mr Christopher gave no hint of distress during a joint press conference, but the election of Mr Netanyahu, who has



Netanyahu: Willing to resume talks with Palestinians

pledged not to give back the Golan Heights in Syria, has meant that his almost ceaseless shuttle diplomacy between Damascus and Jerusalem has counted for nothing. Syria has made clear that without the return of the Golan, captured by Israel in 1967, there can be no peace agreement.

The frustration of his hopes for Middle East peace may also ensure that Mr Christopher will not be tempted to prolong his stay at the State Depart-

ment. He has visited Jerusalem and Damascus more than 20 times each in the last four years and Latin America only once. One of the passengers on his aircraft said yesterday that "When we take off from Shannon after refuelling on our way from Washington even the birds don't bother to look up any more."

The US also wants to keep the accords between Israel and the Palestinians on track by seeking an early Israeli withdrawal from Hebron. Mr Netanyahu said he was still studying this. In keeping with his style during his first days in power, Mr Netanyahu played his cards close to his chest refusing to be drawn on whether he accepts the formula of "land for peace", which Arab states insisted at his weekend summit was the only basis for peace talks.

Mr Christopher flies to Cairo today to meet President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Mr Arafat. The US is expected to press Israel to make economic concessions to the Palestinians whose standard of living has fallen sharply because workers and goods cannot leave Gaza and the West Bank. Palestinian per capita income has fallen 20 per cent in the last year.

When Mr Netanyahu visits Washington he is likely to receive the same embrace as Mr Peres from President Clinton. However, the White House is nervous that its Middle East policy might be seen as unravelling later in the year if Israeli troops enter Palestinian enclaves or the conflict between Israel and Syria intensifies in Lebanon.



Fireworks over the Dome of the Rock Mosque during celebrations of Jerusalem's 3,000th anniversary

Photograph: AP

Talks on Nigeria reach stalemate

JOHN LICHFIELD

The first negotiations between Nigeria and the Commonwealth since the execution of the political rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa seemed to be running into the sand last night.

On the second day of the talks in London, a Nigerian delegation was said to have again rejected the Commonwealth's request to send a high-level mission to the country to examine human rights abuses. Despite the release of seven political detainees in Nigeria and the "friendly" atmosphere at the talks, the Nigerian Foreign Minister, Tom Ibi, was said to have adopted a hard line.

Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth after the execution of Mr Saro-Wiwa and eight other minority activists last November. Mr Ibi suggested a four-step settlement, including the reinstatement of Nigeria in return for a three-year "transition" from military rule. But this was dismissed by Commonwealth officials as inadequate.

"It was all pretty thin. I don't think the Nigerians realised what was expected from them or how upset the rest of the world is with them," said one official involved in talks between the Nigerians and an eight-nation Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG).

"If this doesn't get sorted out, there is a chance that we will go our way and they will go theirs. Things do not look stunningly good at the moment," the official said.

The Nigerian military regime first refused to admit a CMAG mission earlier this year. The group recommended a series of sanctions, including a ban on arms sales, but these were held in abeyance to give Nigeria time to come to London to negotiate.

Mr Ibi's plan called for the suspension of his country to be lifted immediately, and that all sanctions be abandoned. In return there would be a "high-level dialogue" and a three-year transition to democracy, funded by the Commonwealth.

"I don't think they're going to get what they want. A lot will depend on a CMAG mission being allowed into Nigeria in the future," one Commonwealth official said.

Smugglers' paradise in a rocky gateway to the Third World

My Spanish friend Antonia and I drove from Europe to Africa the other day and were back by lunchtime. Melilla, Spain's possession in Morocco that is about the size of Richmond Park, is a casual European-Union gateway into the Third World.

The last trench in the ancient Iberian stand-off between Moors and Christians, Melilla has been Spanish since 1497, when the conquistador Don Pedro de Estopinan and 500 men seized the rocky outcrop, built a huge fortress and then extended the city boundaries to the range of a cannon-shot.

As the Moors had been expelled from the peninsula only five years earlier, Spain established a string of fortresses along the Moroccan coast to ensure it would never again be

invaded from the south. Six Spanish specks remain, but Melilla and Ceuta are the only ones anyone has heard of.

It may be a Spanish city flying the starred blue flag of Europe, but when you arrive on the domestic flight from Madrid lands at Melilla airport, it is the baked earth of Africa that assails your nostrils.

Antonia and I jumped into her car and bowed along handsome Art Deco boulevards - laid out with palm trees in the early 1900s by the Catalan, Enrique Nieto, a disciple of Gaudi - to the border town of Beni-Enzar ("son of a Christian"). The journey took 10 minutes, during which the torpor of a blistering morning gave way to the hectic bustle of traders on the move.

At the border, fearsome spiked-metal platforms lie ready to be dragged across the path of any transgressing vehicle, but human traffic passes without hindrance. Moroccans from the surrounding Rif area, the country's poorest, can come and go freely so long as they are home by evening.

There are frowns at the unexpected appearance of a northern European, but

MELILLA DAYS

Men, women in gigantic flowing jellababs and children walked purposefully, laden with enormous burdens. A mule, its eyes protected from the desert sun by folded cardboard popped over its ears, pulled a trap, creaking under the weight of a refrigerator. Similar burdens wobbled on bicycles and on backs that were bent double.

Moroccans lined up outside shops along the frontier road, buying clothes, crates of soft drinks, biscuits, kitchenware and nappies. "All these goods come by boat from mainland Spain, but only about 20 per cent stay in Melilla," Antonia said. "That French company

that makes cheap glassware sells more to Melilla than to Madrid and Barcelona put together. Only 65,000 people live here, but the whole of Africa is the market."

"Contraband," she adds. "At the border, fearsome spiked-metal platforms lie ready to be dragged across the path of any transgressing vehicle, but human traffic passes without hindrance. Moroccans from the surrounding Rif area, the country's poorest, can come and go freely so long as they are home by evening."

There are frowns at the unexpected appearance of a northern European, but

Antonia speaks through a slit in the wooden border post to an official who is invisible behind a dusty window. "I know him," she explains. She takes my passport and returns within minutes, bearing two flimsy forms - exit and re-entry visas - fluttering in her fingers.

Once across, I am transfixed by the squat, pastel-washed houses that dot Morocco's parched hills. But Antonia spots something else. "Look, the Gugur is on fire." Flames rip the mountain top ahead of us.

"This happened last year and the Moroccan authorities called on Melillan firefighters and police for help, because they don't have enough water. The smugglers had a wonderful night with no one watching the border."

A mile on, police check the taxis for contraband. But the passengers with their burdens have already disembarked. The empty taxis drive off and wait for their passengers to rejoin them.

At Nador, we plunged into the souk, through alleyways of up-ended sheep's heads, windpipe and horns that curled up to meet us, past conical heaps of spices, fruit and vegetables arranged geometrically, carrot by carrot, fig by fig, to what Antonia called "El Corte Ingles", after Spain's biggest store.

In the stalls of jeans, trainers, women's suits and men's shirts, the labels said "Made in Spain" and the prices were knocked down. If I inadvertently jostled someone, they apologised profusely in fractured German. We couldn't enter a café, if

course, so took a cola and a dish of mint-and-almond pastries at the five-star hotel.

The road back north runs alongside the abandoned "ferris railway" that used to bring iron from the Rif to Melilla's port-side. We stopped at the beach, where Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus and Gypsies lolled and strolled together.

The picture of racial harmony was jarred only by the burnt remains of a union flag, testimony to Spanish disappointment over a Wembley football match the day before.

Finally we stepped into the cool Spanish home of Antonia's mother for lunch. She had prepared her speciality: couscous, followed by mint tea.

Elizabeth Nash

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A playground punch-up that misses the point

A grammar school for every town, a grammar stream for every school. Buoyant enthusiasm in the Conservative media heralded the arrival of the Government's White Paper on selection in schools yesterday. "Selection at last," enthused the editorial in the *Daily Telegraph*. What nonsense - the headline that is, not the Government's new proposals. Because this is barely selection at all.

Mrs Shephard's White Paper isn't nonsense. It's just pointless. The very limited increase in selection it proposes will make no difference to most school children. A tweak at grant-maintained schools here and a tug at local authority schools there do not add up to legions of new grammars, or a whole stratification of bands and streams throughout the land.

Schools will only increase selection if parents want it. If past record is anything to go by, most parents, teachers and governors in the state sector will see fit to keep their schools comprehensive. Most parents are well aware that bringing back selection risks stopping their own precious 10-year-old getting into the school they want.

So why is everyone babbling about grammar schools? Politics, of course. John Major has a vision of a grammar school for every town, yet his proposals fall far short of that. Even Gillian Shephard, that long-time advocate of comprehensives, has been reciting the

merits of grammar schools, and she certainly doesn't want to see more of them. The Government's aims are purely political. Mr Major and his advisers think there are votes to be won in selection, and in the rhetoric of returning to grammar schools. And they believe they have found the issue to confuse and confound the Labour Party.

At first sight the logic of this approach seems bizarre. If it is true that so few parents in Britain want to revive grammar schools, there can be few votes in screaming about them so loudly. Allowing the debate to become polarised around a return to the 11-plus is a great mistake for the Conservatives. Barely anyone wants it back. Mr Major may have wrongly allowed his romantic attachment to a mythical golden era, when polite grammar school boys played cricket on the village green, to dictate his politics once more.

But he has a better pitch. When the Prime Minister delivered his own passionate endorsement of grammar schools in March, it was heavily tinged with the language of aspirations. He clearly hopes that by characterising grammar schools as the meritocratic route out of the ghetto for striving working class children, he can appeal to the same group of voters that Mrs Thatcher harnessed. What council house sales were to the aspiring working class in the Eighties, perhaps education will be in the Nineties.



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If it works, it's a great stick to beat Labour with too. The Labour Party cannot afford to appear hostile to the aspirations of the ordinary voters they hope to win back from the Conservatives at this election. Even worse, they dare not allow John Major to position the Conservatives as the party offering ordinary people opportunities while Labour politicians reject them and protect their own privileges instead.

Oratory, which selects on parental interview, while Ms Harman sends her second son to the grammar school St Olaves. By embracing selection so wholeheartedly in their lives, yet opposing selection officially, the two politicians are open to the hypocrisy charge which the Conservatives desperately want to tie up for the election.

argument is hopelessly flawed. Astute aspiring voters will be as aware as anyone else that while grammar schools may help some of their children, their siblings may get stuck in the secondary modern down the road.

The Conservatives would be better off arguing for what their proposals actually add up to, rather than pretending they are something else. As Gillian Shephard tried to point out, above the grammar-babble yesterday, the new proposals in the White Paper are actually about encouraging diversity and variety among state schools. Giving schools the chance to select a certain number of pupils by aptitude for music or sport, for example, allows them to develop distinct specialisms and strengths. This is not only good for parental choice in the area, it also provides the school with a sense of pride and confidence in its own identity, which will be good for all its pupils.

Moreover Labour are on much weaker ground if they try to oppose the promotion of diversity with some retreat towards uniformity. The party has in theory embraced variety among schools, despite offering few clues about how it could be achieved.

As always, talk of sheep and goats has inflamed political passions, to no obvious avail, while politicians argue about how to change the system, instead of how to improve its quality. The big failing in our school system

is not primarily lack of diversity, lack of meritocratic opportunity, or lack of parental choice, though all those things are important. It is our complete inability to provide an adequate education for large numbers of children who leave school without qualifications, and often without basic literacy and numeracy skills. Standards - particularly the quality of teachers - is the real issue. Seen in this light, yesterday's selection row seems little more than a minor out-break of playground fisticuffs.

Time now, children, please

At Sainsbury's in York youth has been served. Too readily, it turns out, and magistrates have withdrawn the store's drinks licence. There's no need to panic. Illicit boozing by young people isn't exactly new, or peculiarly British. Since Plato campaigned to stop the illegal sale of retinas to Athenian youth, generations of parents have worried about young people and demon drink - when not worrying about young people and sex, drugs and the sundry historical equivalents of rock 'n' roll. In identity-card-free Britain, no one is ever going to tell that a strapping 16-year-old with sprouting facial hair is not actually 18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Carey and the causes of 'moral decline'

Sir: We write on behalf of the national humanist organisations and periodicals to challenge several points in George Carey's interview (24 June). Above all, we insist that religion has no monopoly on indeed priority of concern about either personal or public morality.

He complains simultaneously about what he alleges is the "moral decline of Britain" and about a society in which he alleges that "unbelief has become the norm". We protest that there is no evidence for any connection between them.

He calls for "shared values" and "common values"; so do we, but we prefer values which are shared by and common to people who hold all kinds of religious and non-religious beliefs. He claims that we have lived off the legacy of the past which had "strongly Judeo-Christian" values. We claim that many aspects of our legacy - rationality and humanity, liberty and equality, moderation and tolerance, democracy and welfare - belong to different traditions altogether, from the Renaissance and Enlightenment to the scientific and political revolutions of our age.

He asks whether unbelievers have "a logic" for morality and "an ideological basis for ethical standards"; yes, a long and rich tradition of philosophical, theological, sociological and psychological discourse based on naturalistic and scientific arguments has provided a sound foundation for right thought and good behaviour in this world.

And he asks whether it was Oscar Wilde who said that the distinction between men and animals is that man knows how to blush; no, it was Mark Twain (an atheist) who said (in 1897) that man is the only animal that blushes or needs to be seen. We need a sense of shame, indeed, but not of sin.

HERMANN BONDI
President, British Humanist Association
JOBERT ASHBY
British Humanist Association
ETER BREAREY
The Free Thinker
IM HERRICK
New Humanist
NICHOLAS WALTER
Nationalist Press Association
London WC1

in: In Dr George Carey's interview with Andrew Marr our Archbishop appears to fix on a sad reality. Britain is morally decadent and by our failure to judge right from wrong, we are by inference an amoral society. Teachers having to double up as agents in teaching children moral values is particularly worrying.

And yet the Anglican Church over which Dr Carey presides is so in moral decay, prompting me to challenge him to put his own case in order before tackling the "moral decline of a shallow society". It's odd that homophobia and not homosexuality is the sin that taxes him. And yet "new" Anglicanism is creature that seeks to placate all, while pleasing none. For example, sanctioning the embrace of "two genders" - of priesting women while according to a minority who oppose women's ordination; of allowing individual clergy the discretion whether or not to marry divorcees, creating a lottery of winners and losers; and of subscribing to a finance-driven church, whereby there will be fewer said clergy in the future. Dr Carey the architect of a church which is itself shallow and nondescript.



'But it's only a game, Sarge!'

Britain's moral decline has, I would suggest, a clear parallel to the moral decline of her church. The Rev ANDREW P de BERRY
Thurgarton, Nottinghamshire

Sir: The Archbishop of Canterbury is fulfilling his role as a prophetic leader in calling for a national debate on morality. He may feel that he "may not do any more than blow trumpets from castle walls and warn", but there he is in good company. The old prophets warned from hilltops and palace precincts.

Morality is to do with how we behave in relation to others. Whether we allow them the same value that we give to ourselves. If we deny this value to those who are not "like us" we can end up denying their very humanity. There are already too many people who feel that they have no part in the current society, who feel marginalised. Morality is about personal responsibility and social responsibility. We should not only be concerned about the effects of our own personal actions, but the results of actions taken in our name by our national leaders.

If the Archbishop can make us more aware of the consequences of our actions or inactions he will perform a valuable service to all Christians and non-Christians.

JOSE JOHNS
Crowle, Worcester

Sir: The Archbishop of Canterbury questions whether atheists have a logic for their morality, stating that "of course" religious people have one. In fact, faith, or a holy book, are as illogical a basis for morality as any that the most muddle-headed atheist could come up with. And why does he insist on logic anyway? If, as he concedes, atheists can be

morally virtuous, surely this is the best possible endorsement of their morality, whatever its basis. Has it occurred to him that when people disagree on fundamental values, a healthy scepticism about the origins of morality is the best possible position from which to come to an agreement, or at least a workable compromise? Perhaps it is too much to expect that sort of open-mindedness from someone who sees no contradiction in preaching the virtues of tolerance while hijacking the Millennium for Christianity.

JEREMY C HENTY
Cambridge

NHS cash wasted

Sir: The funding of the NHS has hit the headlines again, and again the arguments rage about efficiency and about underfunding. The government say spending on health has increased in real terms, and no doubt they are right. But where is the money going?

The introduction of the purchaser-provider split in the service has diverted resources away from clinical care. One of the real frustrations for clinicians is to watch a sizeable slice of the NHS cake being handed out on a plate to the ever-increasing army of accountants and managers employed to shuttle funds between purchasers and providers.

Can we not escape from the totalitarianism of the accountants and get back to spending the NHS money on patients?

HUGH J THOMSON
Consultant Surgeon, Birmingham

Sent back to a forgotten war

Sir: Your article "The end of war and peace" (14 June) states that the war in Sierra Leone between the government and the Revolutionary United Front was one of "two major conflicts [that] began in 1995". This is incorrect. The war began on 23 March 1991.

It is true, however, that the war only began to attract much press attention in this country after it had been in progress for nearly four years, and only then because British hostages had been seized by the RUF rebels.

Sierra Leone was for over 150 years a British colonial possession. Its subjects fought and died for Britain and the Allies in Burma in the Second World War. In November 1991 I wrote to both John Major and Douglas Hurd about the war and its likely outcome. I received the reply that its causes were too obscure for the British government to take any stand.

This did not stop the Home Office from taking an ever firmer line with asylum-seekers from Sierra Leone, introducing visa curbs for the first time in October 1994, and pressing, in case after case, for the return of refugees to a country in turmoil. Surely, Home Office officials have been aided in this policy by a less-than-vigilant press.

Professor PAUL RICHARDS
Department of Anthropology
University College London
London WC1

Get tough on abusive doctors

Sir: Your leader suggests that the General Medical Council should be "more flexible" when dealing with doctors accused of abusing the doctor-patient relationship ("Doctors: a prescription for retaining our trust", 24 June).

You are obviously unaware that the GMC is already very flexible indeed - some of us might think too much so. I was a lay member for 14 years and sat on disciplinary committees for 12. An allegation has to be both serious and provable to get past the screener. Since the GMC has refused to carry out the recommendations of the Morrison committee that it should have an investigation unit, the complainant who cannot provide her own supporting evidence at the beginning will get no further.

The small minority of cases which reach the next stage then have to be accepted by the Preliminary Proceedings Committee. That committee selects those cases which will get through to the Professional Conduct Committee. Then the complainant will have to convince a panel of 11, most of whom will be male doctors, that she is speaking the truth. The majority of doctors are elected by the profession itself, and are well aware of their constituents' views. If the facts are found proved, it is then decided whether they amount to serious professional misconduct. If so, the panel can decide to admonish, suspend, or remove from the

register. The penalty will vary according to the evidence.

The GMC does not discipline doctors for having sex, but for abuse of the professional relationship. Many GPs are now undertaking counselling roles, and this opens greater possibilities of manipulation. The damage done to the patient can be profound, and can leave her and members of her family suicidal. Similar abuse by female doctors can happen, but is uncommon.

Doctors have been given powers to discipline themselves to protect the public. If they fail to do it effectively, Parliament may decide to disband the GMC and give those powers to a lay body. I am sure that is the last thing the British Medical Association would want.

JEAN ROBINSON
Oxford

Babies on left and right

Sir: Your article "Why left sounds right to a babe in arms" (21 June) reports two scientists' complicated explanation for why mothers cradle their babies on the left arm. I have four children. It is quite simple. cradling the baby on the left leaves the right hand free to right-handed people. They only had to ask mother.

GILLIAN RUSSELL
Aberdeen

Sir: Now I understand why I, as a right-handed mother, cradled my daughters on my right side - it was my maternal instinct to protect them from my dreadful singing.

MEG IRVING
Furley, Surrey

Change among tribal peoples

Sir: Nicholas Schoon's article "Vanishing tribes... vanishing whales" (21 June) does not do justice to the Inuit and the tribal peoples of eastern Siberia.

Although he acknowledges that, for Arctic peoples, subsistence whaling is a force for social cohesion and often the only means of economic survival, his emotive emphasis on their use of "modern" hunting weapons reflects the most common Western misunderstanding of tribal peoples. Whereas Western societies "develop" or "progress", the argument goes, tribal peoples remain "primitive" and "at one with nature". It is only to be conserved like rare species or "dragged kicking and screaming into the 20th century". The idea that tribal societies contain their own dynamic of change and can accept or reject Western-style modernity on their own terms still threatens even those of an impeccably liberal disposition.

Rifles may be less picturesque (than poisoned arrows, but the quota figures themselves show that if there is a threat to these mammals it does not come from Arctic peoples).

STEPHEN CORRY
Director General, Survival
London WC1

Secret files

Sir: On 18 May you published a letter from me regarding the declassification of secret documents relating to the surveillance of anti-imperialists in the UK in the 1950 and early 1940s. I have been in correspondence with Roger Freeman MP the Cabinet Minister for Public Service.

In a letter to me dated 3 June, he wrote that in 1993 the Lord Chancellor had decided that "records whose release would not be in the public interest, in that it would do actual harm to national security, were still exempt from release". Further, "the security and intelligence agencies depend for their effectiveness upon maintaining the confidentiality of their operations as well as upon maintaining the confidentiality of people who put themselves at risk in the service of the state."

It seems that the methods and agents used in the 1930s and early 1940s are still being used today. Is our "national security" safe in such ancient and outmoded hands? Mr Freeman did not respond to my request for a definition of "national security".

MARIKA SHERWOOD
Honorary Research Fellow
Institute of Commonwealth Studies
London WC1

Late show

Sir: One simple measure which Charles Saumarez Smith ("How to pull them in off the streets", 25 June) didn't mention in his plans for London's galleries is to revise their archaic opening hours.

While it is possible to buy more or less anything until at least 8pm, the Tate, National and National Portrait Gallery regularly turf everyone out at 6pm. Those of us not shackled to our desks by guilt and insecurity often have an hour or two to kill between finishing work and starting the evening's hedonism; there's not much to do in the capital at this time except shop or drink.

VYV HOPE-SCOTT
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12

interview

'I've wanted to be Dr Godber more than anything. It's to do with being thrown on the scrapheap at 11'

Judith Judd meets playwright John Godber, who failed to make it into grammar school

Had he not failed the 11-plus, John Godber, successful playwright, television scriptwriter and theatre director might not be where he is today. It made him obsessed with qualifications, he says. It also gave him the sense of being an outsider which is a vital ingredient in much of his work.

John Godber, BEd, MA, PhD (unpublished) and Honorary Doctor of Letters at Hull University, has won the Laurence Olivier Comedy award for his play *Up 'N' Under*, written scripts for television series such as *Grange Hill* and *Brookside* and a string of plays: the award-winning *Bouncers*, *April in Paris*, *The Office Party*, *Salt of the Earth* to name only a few.

Yet he says acquiring qualifications is compulsive. Another honorary doctorate from Humberside University is on the way. "I've wanted to be Dr Godber more than anything else. It's to do with being thrown on the scrapheap at the age of 11." Ever since the education system rejected him, he has suffered from what he calls the Camus syndrome, the feeling of being an outsider.

"While my plays are performed more than those of most other living writers, I'm not at the centre of the theatrical fraternity. I'm not writing about people with PhDs having nervous breakdowns or middle-class inter-marital relationships. It's more grass roots level stuff."

As artistic director of the Hull Truck Theatre company, he is even physically outside mainstream theatre. He lives just outside Hull and is at present rehearsing *Shakers*, a musical by himself and his wife Jane about the grind of being a cocktail bar waitress. He has also been commissioned to write a television series about a couple who have a baby late in life. At 40 he has a daughter who is not yet two.

But if his failure to win a place at grammar schools has helped his career, Godber is reluctant to admit it. His memoirs

'When I failed the exam, my father hit me ... he felt the stigma'

of the stigma of being one of a handful of children in his class in the mining community of Upton, near Pontefract, to fail the 11-plus.

"The pain for someone sensitive was intense. And it wasn't easy to show sensitivity in a mining village in the Sixties. When I failed the exam, I was physically hit. My father found it a great humiliation. He is not violent. He felt the stigma."

"In a mining community it was an announcement of failure. I had cousins who had gone to grammar school. You couldn't help making comparisons."

His mother had passed but been unable to take up her place because grammar schools were still fee-paying. His mother was less upset by his failure. "Bear in mind that everybody thought I could have a job at the pit. My granddad used to joke he had a shovel waiting for me."

His failure, he says, cannot be neatly explained away by his background: many boys in his class did pass. His father was interested in self-improvement and had attended Workers' Education Association lectures given by Harold Wilson. But there were no books in the house.

He vividly remembers being flummoxed by one particular question on the English paper. "You had to explain the word quench. It wasn't a word that would ever have been used in our house. That was an example of how alien the whole exam seemed and how middle-class orientated it was."

"I was completely unprepared for the exam. I didn't realise its importance. I had a vague idea that if you passed you went on to a posh school with uniforms. If you didn't you went to the school for miscreants. My parents expected me to pass but for no other reason than that they sent me to bed early."

In 1966, he went to Upton secondary modern but the pain continued. He hated the grammar school boys and the feeling was mutual. "Have you done your table tennis home-

The Outsider: John Godber in rehearsals. His plays are performed more than those of most other living writers

Steve Forrest/Guzelian

work, they used to shout at us," he recalls. Eight years later, when his school team beat Pontefract grammar school at rugby, the revenge was sweet. The 11-year-old's failure still rankled.

The secondary modern, he says, was grim. "I was bullied and we had to do a lot of things I wasn't very good at like welding and woodwork. But there was one very good English teacher and I began to write sketches."

After a year, a new comprehensive was built in response to the Labour government's 1965 circular to promote comprehensive education. All the

pupils in local secondary moderns, though not those in grammar schools, were transferred there.

"It was wonderful," says Godber. "The teachers were younger and you could call them by their first name. There were people who were 18. There was a big sports hall and community studies, a sort of diluted sociology and even drama."

He got nine CSEs (the exam for those not considered bright enough to do O-level) at grade 1 and two A-levels and went on to Bretton Hall College in Wakefield to train as a teacher. For five years he taught at his

old school, Minsthorpe High. "I took pupils from that school to the Edinburgh Festival and the National Student Drama Festival. We won lots of awards."

While he was working part-time for his PhD at Leeds University, he started writing scripts for Granada for *Crown Court*. He also wrote some of the early episodes of *Grange Hill*.

"Not like any comprehensive I know," he adds. "Nobody smokes and when a window is broken, someone owns up."

Would he be able to write as he does if he had been to that traditional grammar school and gone on to a famous university?

He is cautious about any suggestion that failing the 11-plus may have been a positive influence and that his secondary modern and comprehensive schools proved an invaluable broad experience.

He writes mostly, he says, about his family, including his sister, seven years his junior, who works in an unemployment benefit office.

"I am interested in the underdog and that could be traced back to the 11-plus. But you have to remember I'm unusual in being successful. Most of the boys who failed the 11-plus with me—some of them bright—went down the pit and lost their jobs

after the miners' strike.

"Eleven is too early to start screaming people off. They aren't ready. Some working-class kids got through to grammar school but the potential of lots of them wasn't realised."

When it comes to his daughter, Elizabeth, he may feel differently. "Children change the way you look at things. I'd like her to go to a comprehensive but I wouldn't rule out private school. Roedean, perhaps. No, not Roedean, but there are some good private schools near here. I'm not of the opinion that what was good enough for me will necessarily be good enough for her."

DID THE 11-PLUS MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THEIR LIVES?



Failed - Peter Stringfellow

Nightclub owner
"I was very embarrassed when I failed my 11-plus, but my first year at Burngreave Secondary School, in Sheffield, was probably the happiest year of my life. For the first time, I was given a chance to shine in a situation I was capable of shining in. I am all in favour of selective streaming, which may surprise you."



Failed - Frank Johnson

Editor of *The Spectator*
"I shall always be grateful to my old teachers who helped me fail my 11-plus. It meant I didn't have to exercise my brain getting a first at university and I was turned off books for the rest of my life. I don't have children but if I did I would, disastrously, send them to the usual Eton and Winchester."



Failed - Tony Mooney

Head of Rialto School, South-west London, where John Major was a pupil
"I failed my 11-plus, much to everybody's surprise. I felt humiliated for years. I thought, 'You never get rid of it.' The secondary modern I went to, however, was a good school in that it encouraged me to think. I had been taught that my children went to local comprehensive. I'm a great believer in the comprehensive ideal."



Passed - Wendy Graig

Actress
"I had to have extra coaching in maths. I passed. I just went to the local grammar school, which was an excellent school. I was encouraged by my parents and my school. The school certainly did bring out the talents that were there. Both my children were educated privately. I wanted them to have the best I could afford."



Passed - Debbie Moore

Founder chairman of Pinnacle Dance Studios
"I passed, but in those days it was more desperate that my brother passed than me. I went to a grammar school for girls and I was kind of that. Some of my friends and I were the only ones who didn't pass and went to secondary modern. They didn't have the same disciplined education. Just the extra discipline and uniforms made it a good grounding for me."



Passed - Maureen Lipman

Actress
"I passed 11-plus and went to an all-girls grammar school. I wished it had been co-ed. It gave me a very good education if I chose to listen to it, which I didn't much. It was a school like that. I sent my children there, but they have both been educated privately. They weren't doing very well in state schools."

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What's brown and white and drunk?

From time to time I get requests from readers with low linguistic self-esteem to bring back the ever-popular Dr Wordsmith to give them access to unparalleled word-power, or at least to guide them a few more feet into the impenetrable thicket of English vocabulary.

I couldn't agree more. In fact, I would have brought him back far sooner to get him to answer your questions, but this is the first time I have found him sober. Here he is now, though, so all yours, doc!

Could you explain the difference between "shall" and "will"?
Dr Wordsmith writes: Sure. A will is something you write before you die to specify how much money all of your relations get from your estate, or how much the Battersea Dog's Home gets if you can't stand your relations, or indeed how much the National Trust gets if you can't stand people or ani-

mals. A shall, on the other hand, is the name given to a confidence trickster's assistant, one who pretends to be a victim to encourage others. Isn't the word for that a "shill", not a "shall"?
Dr Wordsmith writes: Is it? Yes, I believe you're right! I am puzzled by the expression "deceptively simple". When we say a thing is deceptively simple, does that mean it is very simple or very complicated?

Dr Wordsmith writes: Neither. It means it is very, very deceptive.
As we all know, the word "chauffeur", meaning driver of a car, comes from the French. However, in French the word "chauffeur" does NOT mean someone who drives; it means someone who heats, because "chauffer" is to get hot. So was there something that the early drivers of cars had to heat before they could get their cars in motion, eh?
Dr Wordsmith writes: Yes. They had to get their passengers warm with rugs, blan-



Miles Kingston

kets, gloves, hot water bottles, flasks of brandy, displays of servility, etc. etc. Then, and only then, could they turn their attention to the driving. And the next!
Does the word for the flower called the "teasel" come from the Yorkshire expression for the easel, namely "tassel"?
Dr Wordsmith writes: No. What is the difference between "boules" and "petanque"?
Dr Wordsmith writes: "Boule de neige" means "snowball" but "petanque de neige" does not. Nor can you imagine Maupassant writing a book called "Petanque de

Suif". And the next, please!

Why is the name "cappuccino" given to a frothy milky coffee in Italy?

Dr Wordsmith writes: "Cappuccino" actually means Capuchin, which was one of the orders of friar in Italy.

Yes, but why was the name given to a frothy coffee, wise guy?

Dr Wordsmith writes: Because the Capuchins wore brown and white garb, just like a milky coffee, smart ass!

The word "capucine" in French means the flower we call a nasturtium, doesn't it?

Dr Wordsmith writes: Ye-e-e-s...

So why is it called a "cappuccino"?
Dr Wordsmith writes: Look, hasn't anyone got any better questions than this?

Dr Wordsmith writes: No. Do you think it would ever be possible to use the words "chamfered", "barburiate" and "intaglio" in the same sentence?

Dr Wordsmith writes: Yes. You have just done it. Congratulations.

Does the word "in tray" come from the way they pronounce "the in-tray" in Yorkshire, namely "in-tray"?
Dr Wordsmith writes: No. Is the word "butterfly" a fanciful version of the expression "flutter by"?
Dr Wordsmith writes: No. It comes from an old Saxon word meaning "butter thief". Why would a butterfly want to steal butter?
Dr Wordsmith writes: I haven't the faintest blind idea! Don't ask me! Ask the old Saxons, who invented the flaming word in the first place! Barman! Same again...!

I'm sorry, I was wrong. Dr Wordsmith is NOT sober today. Some other time, perhaps...

صوتك من الاجل

the commentators

A choice for Scotland, a risk for Blair

A referendum pledge by Labour could wrongfoot the 'tartan tax' Tories, but it could upset the activists

The Conservatives may not be much of a government but they are already proving to be a serious opposition. By campaigning savagely against Scottish Home Rule, they have just changed the policy of Tony Blair's government-in-waiting. He is about to announce a radical shift on Scotland which, according to Blair's aides, will put John Major on the spot. As Donald Macintyre noted here yesterday, Major's potent "save the Union" message in the 1992 election has been a lesson to both main parties. The Tories think it helped them win. And over the past year the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, has rubbed the message home by successfully dubbing the proposed Edinburgh parliament's ability to vary income tax a "tartan tax".

Labour is caught between two nationalisms. There is the real revival of nationalist feeling in Scotland, which Labour activists mostly share and which Blair must respond to, or risk losing seat after seat to the SNP. And there is the reawakening nationalism of Tory England, which has mostly manifested itself in anti-Europeanism, but which could be whipped up by a Scottish settlement.

Blair has been worried by English nationalism for some time, and rightly so. He must assume that, if he makes

it to Downing Street, he will quite quickly be facing a Tory Opposition led by Michael Portillo or John Redwood in flamingly Thatcherite form. So he needs to find a way of dealing with Scottish devolution which doesn't allow that political spectre to return to haunt them.

Yet almost anything Blair suggests to help repulse the English nationalists will infuriate Scotland's nationalists, including those in his own party - and vice-versa. He could simply ditch the proposed Edinburgh parliament's ability to raise and cut taxes. But that would mean the abandonment of a policy strongly believed in by the Scottish Labour Party and which Blair has committed himself to retaining.

It would cause a furious row. More important, perhaps, would be its effect on Scottish politics generally. The Edinburgh parliament would be offered the power to divide up a cake entirely produced of block grant. Anything it failed to do could be blamed on southern meanness. It would be a recipe for immature politics and anti-Englishism.

For Blair to go that way would be a serious mistake. What else? He could suggest that Westminster will have the power to over-ride the Edinburgh MSPs even on those areas of policy considered fit for a Scottish parliament. That too would infuriate the



ANDREW MARR

Blair is caught between two reviving nationalisms

Scottish Labour Party, and the "London veto" would be excellent news for the real Scottish Nationalists.

So instead, I expect Blair to go for a multi-option referendum. This has one huge downside. It would remind people of the last such referendum, in 1979, which failed to clear the 40 per cent hurdle imposed by London and thus destroyed the Scottish Assembly which had been so painfully prepared by the Callaghan government. That referendum campaign set Labour MP against Labour MP and was conducted against a background of foul weather, the stoppages and strikes of

the "winter of discontent". For the Labour Party in Scotland, it is not a cheerful memory.

This time round, some of the same problems would apply. Given a referendum, wouldn't some Scottish Labour MPs of a staunchly Unionist persuasion - Brian Wilson springs to mind - find it very difficult not to campaign against their own party's policy? As in the Seventies, wouldn't Westminster add an extra numerical hurdle? Labour's Scottish general secretary was in London yesterday, presumably for talks on these very subjects.

For there are strong tactical reasons for a Scottish referendum commitment. First, it would allow Labour to present the Scottish people with at least three clear choices. There would be the unchanged Union, for which the Conservatives would presumably campaign and presumably lose. There would be independence, the cause of the SNP. And there would be something-in-between.

Labour could explain in detail its proposals, including ones on the longer-term future for Scotland's relatively high central funding and on tax powers for Edinburgh, inviting Scots to weigh them up and make a choice.

The Tory allegation that a Labour vote in Scotland at the general election would mean a "tartan tax" would

be destroyed: such a tax would be imposed only if Scots later voted twice for it - once for a parliament with those powers, and then again for tax-raising MPs to sit in that Edinburgh parliament.

The allegedly over-generous treatment of Scotland from public funds would also be aired before the new parliament was established. The referendum could, of course, go the "wrong" way for Labour. But that seems unlikely; and it would "out" both the Tory Unionists and SNP, obliging them to take their unadorned case directly to the Scottish people.

This is a momentous decision for Blair. If the Tory attack on Scottish devolution is repulsed, then the whole Conservative case against Labour's constitutional reform programme will begin to come apart too. Can Major really make anyone's flesh creep at the thought of a Bill of Rights, or the abolition of the voting rights of hereditary peers?

The question troubling Blair has been whether these tactical advantages outweigh the anger that the Scottish Labour Party and many other Scots will feel at any delay and uncertainty over Labour's once-clear Home Rule promise. My guess is that that question no longer troubles him; and that he will publicly go for the referendum within days.

Triumph of the will, the logic and the plan

Stan Hey traces the rise of the Germans, through hard work and organisation, to football superiority

Just as English industrialists continue to search for the secret of Germany's post-war economic recovery, there are many English football managers who, irrespective of the result of tonight's Euro 96 semi-final between the two nations, will be asking themselves: How did the Germans get to be so good at football? The answer is not as straightforward as *forpung durch Technik*, but parallels can be glimpsed between the achievements of German industry and its football that may give clues to an astonishing durability in international competition over the past 30 years.

It is perhaps a significant irony that the current German squad is sponsored by Mercedes-Benz, the makers of the most reliable cars in the world, while England are sponsored by Green Flag, a national car breakdown service. The contrast between the two countries' footballing fortunes remains equally stark. For Germany's international record embraces three World Cup wins (in 1954, 1974 and 1990), being runners-up in 1982 and 1986, and winning two European Championships (in 1972 and 1980).

England, as the soccer chant of the 1970s used to go: "Won two world wars and nine World Cup". Not much reward for being the originators of the game.

England, until comparatively recently - last Monday morning, according to the front page of the *Daily Star* - still believed itself to be an imperial power in world football. The Germans have always sought to modernise their approach to football, being less encumbered by notions of world superiority, at least on the football pitch.

England thrashed Germany 6-3 in Berlin in 1938, causing the kind of radical self-assessment that we didn't suffer until the Hungarians inflicted the same scoreline on us at Wembley in 1953. After the war, the German national coach Sepp Herberger began a programme of reconstruction, based on fitness and technique, which eventually bore fruit with his team's surprise victory over the brilliant Hungarians in the 1954 World Cup final.

The English didn't appoint a national trainer until the mid-1950s, relying on committees of blazered huffers to select and organise the players. While England remained isolated

from world football competition, thanks to Harrovian arrogance and amateurish disdain for professionalism, the Germans were travelling, competing against the rest of the world.

So by the summer of 1966, when England won the World Cup at Wembley against Germany, it may have seemed that the old order had been re-established. But for England it was indeed "all over", as far as winning international tournaments was concerned. For the Germans had established a national coaching system for players from the age of 14 upwards. They also had a seamless transition from one long-serving manager to another, and they began to base their national squad around whichever team was the most successful in the Bundesliga.

They insisted that each prospective club manager should take a two-year course in tactics, sports medicine and financial administration before taking charge - another contrast to England, where most new managers have stumbled straight from retirement as players without even acquiring basic coaching or financial skills. Organisation, continuity and logic were the key German themes, just as much on the training pitch as on the factory floor.

Meanwhile, for England the wheels were beginning to come off. In the quarter-final of the 1970 World Cup, it lost 3-2 to West Germany, after being 2-0 ahead. Sir Alf Ramsey, the architect of our sole international triumph, was sacked in 1974 and the Football Association then shovelled its way through a dog-eared pack of English club managers - Don Revie, Ron Greenwood, Bobby Robson, Graham Taylor - in the hope that one of them might have the secret.

By contrast, Bertie Vogts, the German manager, has been in the national coaching system since he retired as a player in 1979, working his way steadily upwards. Terry Venables, though a talented coach, on the verge of international achievement, will now leave to hand over to Glenn Hoddle, the most gifted but also the most ill-used English international player of the last two decades. It is not just that the Germans get to the beaches first, but that we take too long to wake up.

Stan Hey was one of the writers of 'Auf Wiedersehen, Pet'.

The subtleties of snobbery

Where exactly do the Majors stand on the social scale, asks Polly Toynbee

It is impossible, in our condition of society, not to become times a snob. Thatcher wrote in his *Book of Snobs*. He might have said in any human society, anywhere, for we define ourselves through an intricate filigree of highly personalised snobberies and tastes. Patricia Dossy, John Major's sister, speaking to the world for the first time this week, in a long interview in the *Daily Telegraph*, displayed the rawest of sensibilities on the subject. The newspaper, with its own finely tuned social antennae, picked up every nuance with lip-smacking relish: they had it both ways - poor Pat being patronised by the smart world, they implied, while subtly patronising her themselves simply by letting her talk.

Where exactly do the Majors stand in the social scale? Who were they? What are we to make of the cradle of our Prime Minister's social attitudes? Pat, the widow of a master baker and mother of an operator of colour printing machines, is full of that same prickliness we observe in her younger brother. Her contempt for the older divorcee across the road, with whom the 20-year-old John had an affair, bubbles over into a deeper fear that the woman had the cheek to patronise the family. Like families everywhere, she defends her brother and their background stoutly against any snobish outside observer, yet wields a mean sisterly stiletto knife of her own.

Why has she never been invited to Downing Street or Chequers? "I would like to be invited, but I think John is protecting me from those who might look down on me because so many people have been snobbish to him." It is a recurrent theme in her account of their life; a family warily on the lookout for anyone who might judge them to have come down in the world, because they did indeed take a steep and painful tumble. When the garden-gnome business went bust, the Majors' three-bedroom bungalow was

exchanged for a two-room Brixton flat. The family comes out brilliantly on values, with Pat taking a job rather than going to college, to pay off parental debts for the sake of family honour. But on social standing she is keenly on the lookout for slights. So, she implies, is her brother. She says: "The woodiness started as a form of self-protection," when he became a Conservative councillor. "You had to sound, look and act in a certain way or no one would believe you had Conservative values."

His greyness, she says, helps him pass muster and move between cliques in a snobbish world. It is easy to imagine how fear of contempt has honed his peculiar verbal and stylistic minimalism. There is nothing left to mock beyond the flatness of his South London voice and the aridity of his robotic vocabulary. Who would be robust enough not to hunch in a party where the effortless snobbery of the aristocracy glides the sharp Oxbridge wits; where cruel Critchleys can contemptuously damn the Majors of the party by calling their ilk "the garagistes". They even mocked a self-made stately-home owner like Heseltine as a "Man who had to buy his own furniture".

Snobbery of such brutish savagery is unknown to most of us these days. Hyacinth Buckle is a character out of the Fifties, and we can laugh at her with ease as a bygone absurdity.

However, subtler varieties of snobbery flourish everywhere and always will, as much among teenagers as their elders. What, after all, is the meaning of the contempt in which they hold those "sad" cases who do not conform to whatever it is they all conform to? The right trainers or hair in their eyes. Adolescents demarcate their own snobbish boundaries to bolster up their fragile identities.

But we all do it, though with more finesse and subtlety as we grow older. Snobbery defines us, too, though it is not talked about in polite society. Said



a son to his mother the other day within earshot of me: "You used to call things 'common' when we were young." "Rubbish," said his sister, "she never did. That would have been far too common." So it goes, layer upon layer. Some snobberies are rampant - and oft displayed among *Telegraph* columnists where new vulgarities are rooted out weekly. The awful crowds at the Cézanne exhibition who don't really look at the pictures; the frightful business men with their boxes at Covent Garden entertaining the Japanese, when none of them know their Parsifal from their Lincoronazione di Poppea. Others are more subtle: academics despising one of their number with a

vulgar taste for appearing on television; any change at all to Radio 3 or 4; brightly patterned carpets or curtains that look like hitched up knickerbockers; Andrew Lloyd Webber, Richard Branson or noticeable cars. Add your own here... but they all have meaning, creating cultural and generational clans, reassuring, self-identifying and infinitely comforting.

John Major's sister portrays a man shamed and damaged by an old-fashioned pernicious snobbery. Would it still be so for a new entrant to the Conservative Party? Perhaps not in so coarse a form. As a nation, we often castigate ourselves as a more class-ridden and snobbish society than

others, but there is scant evidence for this. The Americans' self-image as the classless society is laughable to anyone who has lived there for any length of time. The Barons and the Vons occupy, if anything, more positions of real power in republican Germany than our hereditary peerage. Since the Sixties and Seventies, socially we have become a nation reasonably at ease with ourselves, as Major said he "wished". That, of course, says nothing about poverty and misery, but it marks the welcome passing of social anxiety that went with class-obsession, the death of social deference. There may no longer be deference, but difference will always be with us.

Goodbye Watford, goodbye politics

Tristan Garel-Jones pays tribute to the tribes of Middle England and to the Conservative Party

Last Sunday, the Watford Conservative Association selected Robert Gordon as the prospective parliamentary candidate to fight the next general election in the Tory interest. The three shortlisted candidates all belonged to the mainstream of the Conservative Party. As I looked down from the platform at the inner core of my local party (with, I own, a degree of sentimental affection), it was hard to exclude the thought that they are a more reliable and steady body of men and women than the 1922 Committee. Mrs Nancy Forshaw has more sense in her little finger than... well, (fill in this space). The sooner Nancy, David Hobbs, Sue Windsor, Arun Ranjit and thousands like them are fully enfranchised by the Conservative Party, the better.

"The Conservative Party is not a political party; it is a tribe," says wise old Alistair Goodlad MP in a, for him, rare display of verbosity. Right. It is the tribe that took me into its bosom when I returned from Spain, aged 30, to live in the UK. On the pavements, doorsteps and in the front rooms of suburban Watford I became intoxicated with the air of Middle England, an all-embracing term to include Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

-anywhere outside SW1). In my surgeries I shared their daily dramas and *learned*. Learn, above all, that politicians should sermonise less, listen more and, in the words of the Psalm, be slow to chide and swift to bless. The final balance sheet shows a healthy credit in favour of Watford, which I can only hope to repay by the weight of my affection.

The tribal character of the Conservative Party makes it the ideal vehicle for this age of anti-heroic politics. The barbarians are no longer at the gates. The Cold War has made way for what Professor Sir Michael Howard describes as the chill peace. The agenda set out by Thatcher, Joseph and Howe in the late Seventies to recapture the initiative for liberal economics has been triumphantly won. Conservatives five, Labour nil.

It may be the end of ideology, but politics has just become more difficult. Far better a tribe that has never been encumbered by ideology than new Labour - an ageing transvestite clad in sub-Thatcherite rhetoric. After all, we know that Danny La Rue is a man, just as we know that new Labour is old Labour.

The collapse of ideology poses new challenges for left and right. The real

struggle at home, inside the European Union and in the global markets is now between free trade and protectionism. Protection is an interventionist device of the kind loved by Labour, the French and Sir James Goldsmith. The Tory party must retain its faith in free trade and would do well to recall that Napoleon Bonaparte ended in St Helena concluded that it

New Labour is an ageing transvestite clad in sub-Thatcherite rhetoric

was British trade, based on sea supremacy post-Trafalgar, that was his real Waterloo. "When I think that for a cup of coffee with more or less sugar in it, they checked the hand that could have set free the world." And thus it is today. The liberating hand of James Goldsmith will be checked by pretty little panties from India and Taiwan.

I was a Whip for most of Mrs Thatcher's period of office. I enforced her government's will with gusto and, I hope, effectiveness. Never a

Thatcherite in the religious sense of the word, I can say without fear of challenge that no journalist ever extracted a whisper of criticism from me either of her person or her policies. Yes, I am an *apparatchik*. I believe governments should get their business. The fashionable view that Parliament is neutered by executive power and savage whipping is back. I know of no executive in the free world that has to fight harder, line by line, minute by minute to place a piece of legislation on the statute book.

When Keith Joseph retired I gave a small dinner party for him in my home. Keith's intellectual power was only surpassed by his personal modesty. After the dinner, attended by Prime Minister Thatcher, I compared his departure to that of King Dimitrios as described by Cavafy.

He took off his golden robes and quickly dressing himself in simple clothes, he slipped out just like an actor who, the play over, changes his costume and goes away.

It remains a source of regret we are unable to accord Lady Thatcher the unquestioning adulation we Conservatives long to indulge in.

Departure leaves one free to espouse the most unfashionable views. Lady Thatcher aside (I would classify her as a war-time leader *manque*), I believe that John Major, with Lord Salisbury and Clement Attlee, is one of the three greatest peacetime prime ministers this century. He picked up his party on the floor, finessed away the poll tax and led it to victory in 1992. Inflation has been squeezed out of our system. The liberalising of the British economy has been pushed ahead. For the first time in my adult life, Britain's performance is not an object of scorn. Maastricht reined in the worst excesses of the Single European Act and laid the foundation pillars for a confederal Europe of sovereign states. He is doing his duty - this generation's duty - by Northern Ireland with courage and integrity.

His treatment at the hands of some of his parliamentary colleagues has been an abomination. Tiny majorities turn tiny men into giants. But out there in Watford, Nancy Forshaw and others like her await. And when Major meets Middle England, Middle Britain, face to face, I suspect there will be some red faces in SW1 and a happy smile on the face of Robert Gordon of Watford.

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obituaries / gazette

Leo Nichols

Leo Nichols was as notable for his death as for his life. A long-time friend of Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, he was arrested in April as part of a Burmese government campaign to tighten the screws on her wherever she was vulnerable. He died in custody on Saturday, among allegations that the regime had denied him proper medical treatment in prison. He was not a political mao, but became another martyr for the cause of democracy in Burma.

Aung San Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), has survived only barely between its landslide election win in 1990, and its leader's re-

lease from house arrest a year ago. Some speculated that Leo Nichols was the NLD's secret banker, but both he and the NLD have always denied this. Indeed, he could not have become involved in NLD finances in any way without making the party vulnerable under election law. But as a successful businessman he was able to help Aung San Suu Kyi herself, by finding her a gardener and handyman for her house, and lending her his car on occasion. He was an elusive, slightly mysterious figure, of mixed parentage, who unofficially continued to represent the interests in Finland and Switzerland -

though he relinquished the official title of consul-general 15 years ago.

Nichols was born in 1931, the offspring of a Greek shipping family based in Rangoon - owners of the Stevedoring Shipping Company. He spent the Japanese occupation of Burma at school in India. After the Second World War, in which his father died, he returned to work in the family business with his uncle and brother. He married his wife, Felicity, in 1951, and they had five children - all of them now living in Australia and the United States.

In the 1950s, he held the position of General Manager of the United Liners Agencies in

Rangoon - but the company was nationalised in 1962 after General Ne Win came to power. It was shortly afterwards that he was appointed Honorary Consul-General for the three Scandinavian countries. But he was briefly arrested in 1980 and as a result gave up his official representation, though he was released after a few days. In recent years, Nichols devoted himself to making money and to distributing it to worthy causes. Even though his donations never appeared on the government lists, he quietly donated to Buddhist, Muslim and Christian charities. He himself was a Catholic.

After Aung San Suu Kyi's re-

lease from house arrest in July 1995 Nichols took breakfast with her every Friday at her house. In April this year he was arrested by the government, and in May he was sentenced to three years in prison. The Burmese official media accused him of "providing general expenses for the democratic student union" but this was not the charge against him. Indeed, the actual charge provided little basis for the prison term, let alone solitary confinement on Death Row - in that he was accused of owning two unlicensed fax machines and nine telephones. However telephone-tapping by military intelligence is a major industry

in Burma; and this year the Burmese military has been determined to remove all possible lines of communication between the Burmese opposition leader and international media that evade their control.

Nichols's arrest was the first of many, for more than 250 NLD members were detained as they prepared to attend a party conference at Aung San Suu Kyi's house at the end of May. Most have now been released, but a number have disappeared - including two of those who, like Nichols, were close to the NLD leader on a personal basis. These were her cousin, U Aye Win and the NLD spokesman U Win Htein.

Nichols was confined in Insein Prison in Rangoon. He died, reportedly of a stroke, after being rushed to Rangoon General Hospital. The Danish foreign minister has demanded an investigation into whether he was being given proper medical treatment in prison, particularly for his known diabetes and heart condition.

Yet it was a measure of Leo Nichols's courage that he had always known the risk he ran by continuing to associate with the Burmese opposition leader - the probability of arrest sooner or later, and the high level of mortality in Burmese prisons, of medical causes alone. Back in 1989 he had been picked up

once before, at the time of Aung San Suu Kyi's own detention; on that occasion he had been released, but a Muslim businessman who was arrested at the same time had died for lack of medical treatment.

"Uncle Leo", as he was known, was no soldier or politician, but was not willing to be a party to the regime's efforts to isolate Aung San Suu Kyi. In death, he becomes a hero of the democracy movement.

Derek Brooke-Warrell

James Leander (Leo) Nichols, businessman: born Rangoon 8 June 1931; married 1951 (five children); died Rangoon 22 June 1996

Ilona Ferenc

Ilona Ferenc was a talented and useful member of any theatrical production - all though in appearance and temperament she was, in George Bernard Shaw's words, one of "Pharaoh's lean kind". She was one of those scrappy but admirable actresses - Mary Merrall, Joyce Carey and Una O'Connor spring to mind - who graced fine plays with fine performances even if they were perhaps precluded by their pert, bird-like qualities from full richness of character. As Athene Seyler used to say of her "Prossie in Shaw's *Candida*, 'Spare, my dear, spare'."

She was born Ilona Hegedus, of Hungarian descent, in Bar Harbor, Maine, in 1917, the eldest of three daughters, all musicians, of the violinist Ferenc Hegedus and Kate Buckley, both accomplished soloists in their own right. Although their eldest child Ilona remained a music lover throughout her life, the stage was her main interest, and, being bilingual, she played in both French and English theatres after a wide education in Austria, Hungary, France and Belgium.

In London she studied for the stage at Rada. There, her scholarly gifts and interest in travel as well as a literary outlook caught the eye of WH Auden, Stephen Spender and Rupert Brooke. She was cast in such plays and diversions as *The Ascent of F6* and *Trial of a Judge*, later dubbing under the management of Nancy Price - "Nancy Cut-Price", they used to call her - in Karel Capek's *Insect Play* at the now defunct Little Theatre off the Strand. She

decided to make England her main country of residence after winning a coveted Leverhulme scholarship, securing her acceptance to Rada.

I had worked with Ilona Ferenc already when I took a chance to cast her, as a slip of a girl, in the demanding role of Mrs Manningham in Patrick Hamilton's gruelling melodrama *Gas Light* at the Scala Theatre in Tottenham Court Road (also now defunct).

I had been seconded from the Queen's Westminster Regiment, which I had joined at the outbreak of the Second World War. It was considered all in the interests of good Anglo-American relations for an English director to join on loan the American army drama unit based in London, and for them to have not an American-born but a British director, especially one who had already been associated, albeit as an actor, with a number of American plays, such as Theodore Dreiser's *The Hand of the Potter* and Clifford Odets's *Golden Boy* (when my co-star was Pamela Brown).

Ferenc as a student had performed to such good effect that I thought that there was a chance for an American now based in England to play Mrs Manningham. *Gas Light* had already been seen at the Apollo Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue with a star cast and on the British screen with Diana Wynyard in the leading part (a hard act to follow). In the event, Ferenc, surrounded by an all-American cast, several of them Broadway professionals, spoke broad American and

more than held her own; her own English was almost perfect. Ilona Ferenc was versatile and accepted direction well and I was glad to be able to use her subsequently in seasons of plays I produced at my own little theatre founded after the war, the New Lindsey, and later still when one of the plays, the sensational *Pick-Up Girl*, which received the stamp of approval from no less a custodian of morals than Queen Mary herself (who saw a special private performance by command), was transferred to two of the largest theatres in the West End of London. It had long runs and made a star of more than one artist in its lengthy cast. In the relatively minor role of a court reporter Ferenc knew how to "project" (a rare gift).

Whether the play was Odets's *Rocket to the Moon* produced at the St Martin's, in which she was cast as a helpless young wife in downtown New York, or whether it was a West End revival of such a modern classic as Somerset Maugham's *For Services Rendered* at the New Lindsey or Thomas Robertson's "costume" comedy *Cas*, Ferenc succeeded in sparkling. Whether at the Lyric Theatre, Manchester, in J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, or touring the Welsh coalfields in the title-role of Eugene O'Neill's early masterpiece *Anna Christie*, the actress invariably made an impression through her diction, body language and versatility.

It was during the run of one of these many productions that she met and married an actor,

Antony Kearney, later to leave the stage and become much better known for his radio and television work as a producer. The couple had two children, both boys, before they divorced after a comparatively short marriage; and a change of fortune accompanied by bad health caused Ferenc to retire from acting during her last 10 years of life. She concentrated instead on what she finally could do most easily through her knowledge of foreign languages - writing for radio and television better parts for other actresses than she could finally find for herself.

I recall with particular pleasure Ferenc's Kristin, the cook in Strindberg's *Mrs Julie*, with Joan Miller in the title-role, in a successful season at the Lyric, Hammersmith, and earlier still at Manchester in the late Forties when she was in the first revival for many years of Ibsen's penultimate masterpiece *John Gabriel Borkman*. Here she played opposite Miller again: one of two sisters who were dominated by the same man in their lives - both in love with the disgraced Borkman who haunted them to the end of their days. Ella Renheim, as played by Joan Miller and Mrs Borkman by Ilona Ferenc, made mighty drama of what could have been, but for its writing and acting, a trite situation.

Peter Cotes

Ilona Hegedus (Ilona Ferenc), actress and dramatist: born Bar Harbor, Maine, 10 October 1917; married Antony Kearney (two sons; marriage dissolved); died London 12 June 1996



Ferenc (right), as Mrs Borkman, with Joan Miller as her sister Ella Renheim, in Peter Cotes's Forties revival of Ibsen's 1896 masterpiece *John Gabriel Borkman*. Photograph: Denis de Marney

Sir Fitzroy Maclean

In 1967, as a Russian-speaking member of BBC television's Documentary Department, I was asked if I would work with Sir Fitzroy Maclean in making a film about the Soviet Union, writes Malcolm Brown (further to the obituary by Frank McLynn on 19 June). It was basically *Eastern Approaches* revisited - to be shown on the 50th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. This would require two extensive journeys, one for reconnaissance, the second with a film team. It was to be one of the happiest and most enriching collaborations of my 26 years as a BBC staff producer.

Our friendship was barely 10 minutes old when he told me to drop the "Sir" and call him Fitzroy, Fitz, or even Fitz. I settled for Fitzroy. He was a youthful enthusiast and the possessor of an almost schoolboyish sense of humour, and we were able to pun frequently and exuberantly in two languages. "Lux", or to transliterate more correctly, "Lyooks", was the top grade of travel offered in the Soviet Union by Intourist; the modest quip "If Lyooks could kill" had us both in laughter for hours. He knew his Soviet Union well. One evening at the famous National Hotel opposite Red Square, he took me down a corridor to point out the corner room where Commander Courtney MP had been filmed in *flagrant* by the KGB.

Later, when about to fly from Tashkent to Baku over the Caspian Sea, I expressed pleasure that our Russian minders had put us first on board our Tu-154-18. "You know what this means," he said, "we are going to fly over some important military installation, and so will be put in a place of honour opposite the wing where we can't see anything." He was right.

He also knew his Central Asia. Flying at 30,000 feet one magical evening and gazing through the aircraft window at a distant frieze of mountains, I felt a tap on the knee. "Those," said Fitzroy, "are the high Pamirs." It was rather like being shown the Empty Quarter by Wilfred Thesiger.

He spoke Russian with an effortless ease and a strong Etonian accent. Right-wing MP that he was, the Russians loved him and he returned their affection. He was splendid at getting to his feet at the kind of occasions when vodka were drunk to everything that anybody could think of and at contriving speeches which put everyone in high good-humour.

Our programme, transmitted under the title *The Other Russians*, collected a huge audience on BBC1; and was later shown to much acclaim in the series *The World About Us* on BBC2.

Roger Berthoud

Jean Victor Gimpel, historian of technology: born Paris 10 October 1918; married 1946 Catherine Cara (two sons, one daughter); died London 15 June 1996

Jean Gimpel

Jean Gimpel was a man of great physical and intellectual energy, with a big heart and strong sense of justice. A profound and very practical interest in technology, and especially that of the Middle Ages, was the thread that ran through his working life. It yielded two classic studies, *The Cathedral Builders* (1958) and *The Medieval Machine: The Industrial Revolution of the Middle Ages* (1976), underpinned two further books, *The Cult of Art: against art and artists* (1968) and *The End of the Future* (1995), and helped make him an effective saboteur in the French Resistance. For his services during the Second World War he was awarded the Croix de Guerre, the Médaille de Résistance and the Légion d'Honneur.

Gimpel liked to say that he lived between two cultures: those of France, England, the United States and the 13th



Gimpel: deeds as well as words

Duvern. His two brothers, Peter and Charles, who was captured and tortured by the Germans and died in 1973, founded their own gallery in London in 1946.

Initially Jean shared the family enthusiasm for art, and contemplated a career as an expert on the chemistry of Old Master paintings. Eventually, however, he decided to combine earning a living as a diamond broker, first in Paris and then, from 1963, in London, with writing. His research for *The Cathedral Builders* confirmed his revisionist against art, later spelt out in his book-length diatribe *The Cult of Art*. Compared with the nameless craftsmen and unnamed engineers and architects of the Middle Ages, artists from the Renaissance onwards were, he argued, egotistic and self-indulgent, if not actually fraudulent; for example, many of Leonardo da

Vinci's "inventions" were borrowed from treatises by earlier engineers. To depict such pedlars of dispensable luxuries was, he believed, as logical as worshipping relics.

The Cathedral Builders was written in French as *Les Bâtisseurs de Cathédrales* and sold more than 100,000 copies in France alone. In addition to being stuffed with fresh and fascinating information, it demonstrated that France's great cathedrals were built not just by the finest professional architects and craftsmen of the time.

In *The Medieval Machine*, a broader study, he sought to demonstrate that the technological revolution of the Middle Ages, from windmills and water-powered mills, was no less remarkable than the Industrial Revolution. He found many striking parallels between the technological boom of the 10th

and 13th centuries in Western Europe and the one that started around 1750.

After detailed comparison of parallel developments in France between 1050 and 1265 and the United States between 1850 and 1953, he concluded that America had subsequently entered a period of terminal decline that would bring Western civilisation down with it. These Cassandra-like warnings were the focus of an international conference on the decline of the West in Los Angeles in 1977 and were amplified in his last book, *The End of the Future*.

Gimpel was a man of deeds as well as words. Dismissed by the pre-medieval world of technology in the rural areas of many Third World countries, he sought to introduce patchily known inventions such as the Archimedes screw for lifting water from one level to another. To explain their benefits

across language barriers he revived the concept of three-dimensional models, establishing in 1977 a charitable project, Models for Rural Development, to propagate them in partnership with Appropriate Technology Ltd. A miller in the foothills of the Himalayas, for example, rapidly recognised the greater effectiveness of the spoon-shaped blades of a 19th-century Romanian water-mill when compared with the 2,000-year-old Nepalese version. The former was soon adapted as part of the Nepalese government's five-year plan.

Gimpel also devised models to show how not to do things, such as allowing animals too close to a well, or coughing TB-infected spittle over children. These "negative" models were extensively used on the Indian subcontinent and in Africa. Gimpel loved the stimulus of

intelligent friends, especially female ones, and he and his wife Catherine, a Breton and former fellow Resistance member whom he married just 50 years ago, held a kind of Sunday afternoon salon several weeks of the year at their Chelsea bankment flat. Among the assembled writers, scientists, doctors, historians and the like, their volatile host moved, firing off his enthusiasms and prejudices in rapid, French-accented bursts.

Few people can have more effectively or agreeably bridged the gap between C.P. Snow's "two cultures" of science and the humanities.

Roger Berthoud

Jean Victor Gimpel, historian of technology: born Paris 10 October 1918; married 1946 Catherine Cara (two sons, one daughter); died London 15 June 1996

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

STUDOLAND: On 22 June, 10 James and Cher (née Fisher), a son, Arthur John Gilford.

DEATHS

BODEN: Neville, sculptor, husband, father, lover and friend, died 24 June. His carving advice is irreplaceable. Funeral, Monday 1 July, midday, Islington Cemetery, High Road, London N16. Flowers to Recknell & Foster, 81 Green Lanes, London N16 9BX, by 9.30am.

COX: Sir Gordon, KBE FRGS, on 23 June, aged 90. Formerly Secretary of the Agricultural Research Council, Belvedere and loving husband of Mary Rosalind and of the late Lucie Grace, father of Patricia and Keith, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral at 2.30pm on Friday 28 June at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, London NW11. No flowers please but donations to be sent to Friends of RHP/Projects, The Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG, or to the Edenhall Marie Curie Centre, 11 Lyndhurst Gardens, London NW3 5NS.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriams) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Mr Claudio Abbado, conductor, 63; Sir Campbell Adamson, former chairman, Abbey National plc, 74; Sir Alan Bailey, former Permanent Secretary, Department of Transport, 65; Professor Kenneth Barker, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, De Montfort University, 62; Mr Leslie Carpenter, former chairman, Reed International, 69; Mr George Fane, singer and songwriter, 53; Dr Alexander Fenton, director, European Ethnological Research Centre, Edinburgh, 67; Mr William Hamilton, former MP, 79; Rear-Admiral Sir David Haslam, hydrographer, 73; Professor Ruth Kempton, linguist, 52; Mr Syd Lawrence, handlayer, 72; Mr Laurie Lee, poet and author, 82; Mr Robert Maclean MP, 60; Sir Peter Miles, former Keeper of the Privy Purse, 72; Miss Eleanor Parker, actress, 74; Professor Sir Alan Percock, economist, 74; Mr Peter Pike MP, 59; Mr Nicholas Polunin, environmentalist, 57; Lord Rawlinson of Ewell QC, former Attorney-General, 77; Professor Maurice Wilkes, computer scientist, 83; Mr Colin Wilson, author, 65; Mr David Winick MP, 63.

Anniversaries

Births: William Thomson, first Baron Kelvin, physicist and inventor, 1824; Pearl Sydenstricker Buck, novelist, 1892; Willy Messerschmitt, aircraft designer, 1898; Peter Lurie (Lazio Lowenstein), actor, 1904. Deaths: The Rev Gilbert White, naturalist and cleric, 1793; Joseph-Michel Monigollier, balloonist, 1810; Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule, 1827; Ford Madox Ford, novelist and poet, 1939; Carl Foreman,

film producer, 1984; George Horace Gallup, poll organizer, 1984. On this day: Christ's Hospital (the Bluecoat School) was granted its charter, 1553; Victoria Crosses were awarded to 62 men of the army and navy by Queen Victoria in Hyde Park, 1857; the Order of Merit was instituted by King Edward VII, 1902; the new Victoria and Albert Museum was opened, 1909; the United Nations Charter was signed by 50 nations in San Francisco, 1945; the first London production of the musical show *Grease* was presented, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Anthonius, bishop, St John of the Gospels, St Maximus, St Pelagius of Cordova, Saints Salvus or Savae and Superbus and St Vigilius of Trent.

Lectures

National Gallery: Kathleen Adler, "Degas (iv): 'The same thing over again', Degas and Repetition", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Angela Cox, "Portraits Miniatures", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Geoffrey Stewart, "A Painter's View of Sickness", 1pm; Andrew Saint, "London: viewing beyond the gallery (iii). People's Architecture: Art beyond the Gallery and the public good", 6.30pm.

Reader University: Professor Roger Fieldhouse, "Adult Education: past, present and future", 5.15pm.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association The Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch was held yesterday in the House of Commons,

London SW1. Miss Betty Boothroyd MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, presided.

Appointments

Judge David Wilson, to sit in the Office of the Registrar of Companies, Mr James Ralph Barton, to be a full-time Chairman of Industrial Tribunals, assigned to the Newcastle Region. Mr David John Latham, to be a full-time Chairman of Industrial Tribunals, assigned to the Leeds Region. Mr John Christopher Phillips, to be a circuit judge, assigned to the Northern Circuit. Mr Henry Oliver Blackwell QC, to be a circuit judge, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

Mr Roger Clements, Mr Stephen Magness-Hammond and Mr Thomas Wadsworth, to be Practising Fellows of the Academy of Experts.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh visits the City of Westminster College, London, 26 June. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh will attend a service at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, 26 June. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh will attend a service at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, 26 June. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh will attend a service at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, 26 June.

New rules on refugees' benefits invalid

LAW REPORT

26 June 1996

Regina v Secretary of State for Social Security, ex parte B and another: Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Waite) 21 June 1996

Subsidiary legislation must not only be within the *vires* of the enabling statute, but must also be drawn so as not to conflict with statutory rights already enacted by other primary legislation.

The Court of Appeal by a majority (Lord Justice Neill dissenting) allowed an appeal by the applicants, an asylum seeker referred to as B and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on 26 March 1996, and upheld their challenge, by judicial review, to the validity of the Social Security (Persons from Abroad) Miscellaneous Amendment Regulations 1996 (SI 30).

Nicholas Blake QC and Francis Webber (Christian Fisher) for the applicants; Stephen Richards and Stephen Kovacs (P.J. Thomson, solicitor, DHSS) for the respondent.

Lord Justice Simon Brown said in essence the regulations removed all entitlement

to income-related benefits from two classes of asylum seekers: those who submitted their claims for asylum otherwise than immediately upon arrival in the UK, and those whose claims had been rejected by the Home Secretary but who then appealed to the independent appellate authorities.

The Secretary of State's intention was to discourage economic migrants from making and pursuing asylum claims and to speed up the system to the advantage of the genuine refugees. It would also save the taxpayer some £20m a year.

The applicants claimed the regulations were *ultra vires*. The enabling power could not have been intended to permit this degree of interference with statutory rights under the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 and/or fundamental human rights.

Prior to the new regulations, all asylum seekers were entitled to "urgent cases" payments amounting to 90 per cent of normal income support benefit, and to housing and other benefits "passed through" through

income support: see reg 70 of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 (SI 1967) as amended by 1993 SI 1679.

The new regulations were made in exercise of powers conferred in particular by sections 135, 137 and 175 of the Social Security (Contributions and Benefits) Act 1992. They amended regulations 21 and 70 of the 1987 Regulations so as to remove entitlement to urgent cases payments from all asylum seekers save those who submitted a claim for asylum on arrival in the UK, and even then entitlement ceased on the date the Home Secretary recorded the claim to have been determined or abandoned. They also removed any entitlement to housing benefit in corresponding circumstances.

The new regulations did not conflict with the 1993 Act merely because they were designed to reduce the numbers of those invoking rights of application and appeal under that Act. But it could hardly be doubted that some genuine asylum seekers as well as bogus ones were likely to be de-

ferred by pendency from pursuing their claims and thus forced to return to the very persecution from which they had sought to escape.

Specific statutory rights were not to be cut down by subordinate legislation passed under the *vires* of a different Act. The asylum seekers' rights under the 1993 Act were, it was said, being gravely interfered with by the new regulations. The regulations should therefore be struck down in accordance with the principle adopted in *R v Home Secretary, ex p Leech* [1994] QB 198.

Parliament had clearly demonstrated by the 1993 Act a full commitment to the UK's obligations under the 1951 UN Convention on the status of refugees, as amended by the 1967 Protocol. Yet these regulations, for some genuine asylum seekers at least, must be regarded as rendering their rights under that Act nugatory. Either that, or the regulations necessarily constituted for some a life so destitute that no civilised nation could tolerate it. The regulations were so draconian in effect that they must be held to be *ultra vires*.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

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[illegible]

Psion's £230m Amstrad takeover move catches City by surprise

TOM STEVENSON and PATRICK TOOHER

Psion is close to making an agreed takeover of Amstrad. In a move that caught the City by surprise yesterday, the successful personal organiser maker hopes to acquire Alan Sugar's once high-flying computers to mobile phones group for at least £230m.

The deal was instigated by Mr Sugar, who stands to pocket £80m from the takeover and wants to concentrate on his new-found passion for the money-spinning world of Premier League football where he already controls and chairs Tottenham Hotspur.

Assuming all goes well with Psion's due diligence over the next three weeks, the maker of the best-selling Series 3 organiser will bring to an end the uncomfortable stand-off between Amstrad and the City. Relations have never recovered from Mr Sugar's failed attempt in 1992 to take Amstrad private at the equivalent of 150p a share.

Psion said yesterday it was in negotiations with Amstrad that would lead to a deal worth at

least 200p a share. Following any deal, a joint statement from the companies said yesterday. Mr Sugar will own about 15 per cent of the enlarged group. He will not join Psion's board although a possible "deal-making" role is being considered.

David Potter, an academic South African with a doctorate in mathematical physics, will remain as chairman and chief executive of the enlarged group he founded in 1980. Yesterday he said: "We are not buying Amstrad as perceived by its brand name. Amstrad is in ashes. We are buying the phoenix in those ashes."

He said Psion's main interest in Amstrad lay in Damcell, the company's mobile phone manufacturing operation that was one of the first cellular phone businesses to develop the GSM digital standard. He believes Damcell will help in the fusion of portable computers and mobile telephony.

Mr Potter said Mr Sugar approached Psion about two months ago with a view to selling Amstrad. Psion was initially sceptical about the prospects of putting the two businesses together but became increasingly enthusiastic as the deal was explored.

Analysis broadly welcomed the move, which will almost double the size of Psion. After a meteoric rise in its share price, the proposed all share deal is seen as an efficient way of getting hold of Amstrad's £85m cash pile as well as its trading businesses. They reckon Amstrad should fetch up to 250p a share on a sum-of-the-parts basis.

But Andrew Bryant at NatWest warned: "David Potter has got quite a job selling this to Psion's shareholders. It is not a done deal."



Phoenix from the ashes: Psion chairman David Potter said, 'we are not buying Amstrad as perceived by its brand name'

Psion, which plunged into the red in 1991 after problems with its range of hand-held computers, has recovered sharply since on the back of soaring demand for its products which shoehorn the computing power of a desktop machine into a case little more than the size of a pocket diary.

Profits of £1.42m in 1992 increased to £11.7m in the year to last December and the consensus of brokers' forecasts now points to £15.8m before tax this year and more than £20m in 1997.

Since late 1992, when Psion's shares fell as low as 23p, they have outperformed the market by a massive margin, growing 19-fold by the time they peaked last month at 468p. Yesterday worries about the impact of the

Amstrad deal sent the shares 25p lower to 350p.

Psion is also attracted by Viglen, Amstrad's successful direct-sales computer manufacturer, which is already profitable and would allow Psion to develop new products and widen the spread of its business. But Psion is unlikely to want Amstrad's core consumer electronics business, which has struggled for several years in the highly competitive markets for commodity products such as satellite dishes.

Shares in Amstrad, a huge success in the 1980s when Alan Sugar brought computers to the masses with a range of basic word-processing machines, rose 37p to 185p on news of the talks. In the last nine months they have tumbled from nearly 260p as the City digested a diet of bad news.

Reluctant boffin well-organised for commerce

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

It would be hard to think of a more unlikely pair of corporate bedfellows than David Potter and Alan Sugar. In manner, personality and background, the founders of Psion and Amstrad could not be more different. While brash, acerbic Sugar became a household name in the 1980s by bringing computers to the masses, and more recently through his often stormy relationship with Tottenham Hotspur, the more urbane, intellectual Potter is a great deal less familiar than his best-known product, Psion's best-selling personal electronic organiser.

He hates the tag but it is hard to avoid calling Potter a boffin. Having won a scholarship to read natural sciences at Trinity College, Cambridge, Potter took a first and went on to complete a doctorate in mathematical physics at Imperial College in London.

Potter, however, is no anorak. A tall, charming and fearlessly intelligent South African, he couples enormous technical expertise with a determined commercial awareness.

Sit down with Potter and he will take you through the possibilities represented by the fusion of computing and telecommunications. But there is also a firm understanding that the cleverest gizmo is worthless if it fails to make money. He is the technology shareholder's dream chief executive.

Born 53 years ago to relative poverty in East London, a charming port on the South African coast, Potter has always been driven by a desire to make money. An early business venture was a photographic studio he run during his school holidays.



Potter: Enormous technical expertise but no anorak

But in 1974, when the London market crashed to a post-war low, he called his London bank manager from California and told him to spend the £3,000 he had on deposit on a handful of technology shares including Xerox and the then fledgling Rascal.

By 1979, Potter was worth £100,000, a successful analyst of small companies but ultimately bored by the second-hand business experience investment provided. Getting together with friends to write programs for Sir Clive Sinclair, he started Psion - the name stands for Potter Scientific Instruments with an Escon-style flourish to add gravitas.

Potter carries his £60m net worth with ease, but he is a barbed critic of the City. When short-term difficulties sent the company into the red in 1991, investors all but abandoned him.

He also has little time for the UK's academic system which he believes fails to provide scientists and engineers with enough basic business training. As a result, he argues, UK companies are renowned for technical innovation but few have translated that into commercial success.



Alan Sugar: Stands to make £80m from the agreement

Pru float-off set to raise £500m

NIC CICUTTI

Prudential, the UK's largest insurer, yesterday sparked widespread City expectations of a takeover bid for a building society or a life company by announcing it was floating-off part of its reinsurance subsidiary Mercantile & General. The sale is likely to raise at least £500m.

Analysts reacted by predicting an imminent bid by Prudential for Woolwich Building Society, which itself is preparing for a £3bn stock market flotation next year. Prudential's shares rose 4p to 409p yesterday.

However, Peter Davis, group chief executive at Prudential, appeared to dampen down the City's bid fever by suggesting that any likely acquisition was up to 18 months away. Woolwich intends to put its own conversion plans to members early next year.

Mr Davis said of the market speculation: "It is a bit disappointing when we are trying to carry out a review and trying to decide what is best strategically for Mercantile and ourselves. We have made no secret of our intentions in that area. Be-

cause we have been very open, the markets have been expecting us to do it overnight."

Mr Davis added: "The changes of being able to acquire a life company or a building society at a sensible price and to do it immediately are highly unlikely. Expectations have been unrealistic. It might take a bit longer than the market appears to be expecting." He said that floating off about half of Mercantile, valued

yesterday by analysts at up to £1.2bn, would occupy much of Prudential's time before late autumn, when the partial listing was expected to take place, subject to market conditions.

The sale of Mercantile follows a strategy review of the entire Prudential group, which has led the company to decide to concentrate on retail financial services and associated fund management activity.

Mercantile is one of the world's big reinsurers, operating in more than 100 countries. In 1995, the company had wrote gross premiums of £1.3bn and contributed £196m, almost 25 per cent, to the group's pre-tax profits of more than £800m.

Mr Davis said: "After careful consideration, we have decided that the synergy between Prudential and Mercantile is not all that great and [we know] that

the management [there] would like to grow the business." The proceeds might be used to fund its future acquisition strategy, he added. Although the Prudential's primary aim is to seek a listing for about half the subsidiary, if a suitable offer for the entire business were to be made, the company would consider it carefully, he added.

John Engstrom, chief executive at Mercantile, said: "We welcome this decision and believe that our resulting higher profile and independence will assist us in further reinforcing our already strong market position, especially in life and health reinsurance."

Despite the Prudential's comments, analysts claimed a potential bid for the Woolwich was the likely result of the £500m-plus, which the company hopes to raise from its partial disposal. While Mr Davis said a life company acquisition could be funded through shareholder interest in the Prudential's own life fund, thought to be up to £2.5bn, a society takeover on the scale of the Woolwich might still require a significant rights issue.

Watchdog angers de-mutualisers

The Building Societies Ombudsman council, the industry's watchdog, yesterday sparked a row with de-mutualising societies, including the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester, by suggesting that their members stood to lose out of the flotation process, writes Nic Cicutti.

"But [we] believe that the continual contraction in the number of societies is a matter of regret and a development that is unlikely to benefit consumers."

Its view, argued in the Ombudsman's annual report yesterday, was described as "disgraceful" by Halifax Building Society, which is preparing its £10bn flotation next year.

"It is outrageous that the council has seen fit to comment in this way on something which has nothing whatsoever to do with the Ombudsman's

scheme," said Gary Marsh, a senior manager at the Halifax. "Their assertion is made without any evidence."

The Halifax's bitter defence of its flotation plans overshadowed Mr Marsh's annual report, which showed that the caseload of complaints dealt by his office rose by 93 per cent last year, to 2,081, out of more than 7,000 who contacted the Ombudsman. Almost 1,000 initial complaints were linked to the takeover of Cheltenham & Gloucester by Lloyds Bank.

Shareholders call for Sears boss to resign

NIGEL COPE

The directors of Sears were subjected to two hours of intense criticism from shareholders yesterday as investors complained about the company's poor performance, its strategy and the level of directors' bonuses.

During heated exchanges at the company's annual meeting in London, chairman Sir Bob Reid and chief executive Liam Strong both faced calls to resign and had to battle against constant heckling from the floor. The chairman of the executive remuneration committee David Macdonald failed to regain election to the board as a non-executive director by a show of hands. The company had to employ its proxy votes from institutions to push the vote through.

Mr Macdonald had earlier tried to pre-empt shareholder unrest about boardroom pay by delivering a 15 minute description of the bonus scheme in a flat monotone. One shareholder was so frustrated that he

walked out. "How long will this go on for?" another asked.

Shareholders were trenchant in their criticisms of Sears' performance. "This company has performed absolutely pathetically for the 30 years I have owned shares. We're not satisfied and we'd like to see someone else running the outfit."

Another commented that the 85th annual meeting of the company was a "sad meeting for shareholders". She added that the board "did not have the ability to run this company successfully."

She pointed to Sears' recent loss of £120m compared with good trading figures from rivals such as John Lewis and Next. "If this is your best bet I feel sorry for you. And Liam Strong should go."

Mr Strong has been the subject of much recent criticism over his handling of the sale of the Freeman Hardy Willis, Sassone and Curtess shoe chains to the Facia group which later collapsed. He sat silent yesterday, making no contribution to

the meeting. All statements on current trading were made by the chairman.

Current trading figures, though poor, showed an improvement since the company's results announcement. Group like-for-like sales were flat in the 19 weeks to 16 June. Like-for-like sales were down by 5 per cent in the Freeman mail order business and the shoe chains. Selfridges comparative sales were up 11.5 per cent. Sir Bob added that the new Selfridges branch in Heathrow Airport's Terminal One is "taking time to perform". "People are making money in that airport. Why aren't we?" he asked.

He said that Sears had conducted due diligence on Facia, which had satisfied the company of its viability.

While admitting that 1995/96 had been "a difficult year", Sir Bob said the streamlining business was commendable and that management was sound. Shares closed 1p higher yesterday at 100p.

Nat Power chief gets performance-unrelated bonus

MICHAEL HARRISON

The chief executive of National Power, Keith Henry, received a "personal bonus" of £65,000 last year which was negotiated at the time he joined the company and completely unrelated to its performance, it emerged yesterday.

The one-off bonus was in addition to a £100,000 golden hello paid to Mr Henry on joining and took his total package,

including pension costs, last year to £182,555.

National Power's report and accounts also show that £338,000 was paid to another director, Graham Hadley, who left the company last December while a further £461,000 in free shares was paid to the chairman John Baker and two other executives under a long-term incentive scheme.

In addition to a basic salary of £325,000, Mr Henry received

a bonus of £110,500 and £12,855 in taxable benefits, taking his remuneration to £448,355. His total emoluments were further increased by pension costs of £334,200.

However, less than half the £110,500 bonus was related to National Power's performance. The remainder - worth 20 per cent of basic salary - was negotiated at the time of Mr Henry's recruitment from the international contracting group Brown & Root.

Sir John Banham, chairman of the remuneration committee, said that the short- and long-term bonus schemes had been constructed so that they would typically pay out 50 per cent on top of base salary.

The maximum annual bonus has been set at 40 per cent of salary, while executive directors are eligible for shares worth up to one-third of salary under a performance share plan introduced in 1993. The first awards

were made last month under the long-term scheme and resulted in Mr Baker receiving 40,547 shares worth £217,470.

Two other executives - Brian Birkenhead, the finance director, and the technology director Rod Jackson were granted shares worth £141,272 and £102,760 respectively.

Mr Henry was also granted 82,589 share options during the year at £4.48 while Mr Baker exercised 139,334 existing options,

realising a paper profit of £368,369.

PowerGen yesterday confirmed it is proceeding with the £450m sale of two power stations to the Hanson-owned Eastern Group. The generator had threatened to withdraw after its takeover of Midlands Electricity was blocked by the Government.

Eastern's purchase of the High Marnham and Drakelow stations will increase its generating market share to 9 per cent.

Robinson eyes finance job after Woolwich exit

NIC CICUTTI

Peter Robinson, the Woolwich chief executive ousted by the society three months ago, is set to return soon to a career in the financial services industry after finally agreeing a £165,000-a-year pension compensation package with his former employers.

Mr Robinson said yesterday that he had received several offers from financial institutions and would be making a decision on which one to accept in the next few weeks.

"I am getting withdrawal symptoms at the moment and I have to make up my mind as to whether to get back to full-time activity," he said.

"My friends and business connections have been immensely supportive in the past few months and I now plan to concentrate on the offers that I have received."

Mr Robinson's comments came as details emerged of his Woolwich compensation package, negotiated on his behalf by top City lawyers D J Freeman. Both the society and Henry Clinton-Davis, who represented Mr Robinson, yesterday refused to comment on the settlement. However, it is understood that in return for agreeing to forgo

a claim for £600,000 in relation to his two-year notice period, Mr Robinson, aged 54, will receive a pension linked to his 33 years service, with no penalty for early retirement. Based on his final £300,000 salary, he can choose between a maximum annual pension of about £165,000 or a £370,000 lump sum, plus a reduced pension of £135,000.

The agreement with Mr Robinson, who was forced to clear his desk after being accused of financial irregularities, comes as the Woolwich tries to regain the initiative and proceed towards its planned £3bn stock market flotation next summer.

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Peter Robinson: 'I am getting withdrawal symptoms'

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3679.50	-31.30	-0.8	3857.10	3639.50
FTSE 250	4384.50	-48.80	-1.1	4568.60	4015.30
FTSE 350	1861.50	-16.90	-0.9	1945.40	1816.60
FT All Share	2217.34	-11.35	-0.5	2244.26	1954.06
FT All Share	1949.55	-16.24	-0.8	1924.17	1791.95
New York	5704.86	-12.93	-0.2	5778.00	5382.94
Tokyo	22397.17	-6.03	-0.0	22603.20	19734.70
Hong Kong	10982.77	+23.05	+0.2	11594.99	10204.87
Frankfurt	2572.96	+6.53	+0.3	2572.96	2263.36

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES					
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year
UK	5.72	6.10	7.99	9.39	8.11
US	5.34	6.13	6.60	6.15	7.06
Japan	0.44	1.41	3.27	2.82	-
Germany	3.48	3.63	6.57	6.78	7.13

CURRENCIES					
Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
\$ (London)	1.5409	+0.10c	1.5839	£ (London)	0.6490
\$ (NY)	1.5405	+0.25c	1.5845	£ (NY)	0.6491
DM (London)	2.3609	+0.27d	2.1830	DM (NY)	1.3322
¥ (London)	168.089	+0.084	133.269	¥ (NY)	168.085
₹ (London)	86.0	+0.1	82.9	₹ (NY)	86.0

OTHER INDICATORS					
Index	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
Oil Brent	18.08	-0.09	16.63	RPI	192.9+2.2pc
Gold	384.90	+0.6	399.25	124.8	11 July
Gold	248.78	+0.22	245.75	Base Rates	-5.75pc

Sugar makes an exit, but what's Psion's game?

COMMENT

Backing Psion if it acquires Amstrad becomes a bet on David Potter's vision of the future where computing and telecommunications fuse in a technological revolution that will have the Luddites shuddering

Alan Sugar is one of only a handful of entrepreneurs in Britain who can genuinely claim to have transformed an industry. His IBM clone revolutionised the personal computer business. For a number of years at least, it also made investors in Amstrad a great deal of money. But since then, Mr Sugar has done little of note in consumer electronics. He never found anything of significance to replace the Amstrad PC and though he attempted, unsuccessfully, to take the company private once more, it is plain that essentially he long ago lost interest in his creation. These days he concentrates his energies on the brave new world of digital packaged football. Flogging Tottenham Hotspur is likely to prove a great deal more profitable than flogging electronic boxes, he figures.

Mr Sugar is probably right to want to get out. He lacks the necessary skills to compete in today's ever more high-tech and complex markets. Amstrad makes no money from the consumer electronics Mr Sugar understands, and Psion's erudite but commercial David Potter is much more likely to make a good fist of the mobile phone and computer operations that would be Amstrad's only future.

So this is a good deal for Alan Sugar. Amstrad's other shareholders who cold-shouldered the 150p a share Mr Sugar offer four years ago have been vindicated to an extent but it is a close-run thing. Factor in a bit of inflation and most shareholders

would have been better off taking the money in 1992 and reinvesting it.

Even less clear-cut is what sort of a deal Psion is striking. One of the market's biggest success stories over the past four years, the shares rose 20-fold between their 23p low in 1992 and their peak last month of 468p. Their 25p fall yesterday to 350p undermined investors' worries that this is a massive deal for a relatively small company, even if part of it is simply a disguised rights issue to use Psion's highly rated paper to get bold of Amstrad's £85m of cash.

Psion has been successful because it has focused on technology it understands and because it grew organically, expanding fast but nurturing its staff within its own research-based culture. It is by no means given that the phone and PC shifters from Breatwood will fit in to this rather highbrow world.

David Potter is not a man to shy away from taking risks when he has to, however, and you can bet your life he has weighed up the pros and cons with scientific precision. It was no nerdy boffin who made a killing on shares in the 1970s to provide the seed-corn for Psion. Backing Psion if it acquires Amstrad becomes a bet on Mr Potter's vision of the future where computing and telecommunications fuse in a technological revolution that will have the Luddites shuddering. All of us wired up, on the move and frantically communicating in a welter of e-mail, downloading databases and wireless fax

transmissions. Well, maybe. With a £230m share issue to get past shareholders, this is by no means a done deal.

Some DIY questions are answered

Until their profits warning earlier this year, Wickes and its handsomely paid chairman, Henry Sweetbaum, were the DIY partnership that could do no wrong, darlings of the City in a largely untold and difficult business. Every owl and again, of course, the question would re-emerge: if nobody else can make money out of DIY, how on earth does Mr Sweetbaum manage it? Each time the question was asked, it was explained away. Wickes is not really DIY at all, you understand. It is more of a builder's merchant, where the margins are thicker. And anyway the business uses state of the art stock control and IT systems, Mr Sweetbaum insisted. That's how we make money where others fail, he would claim.

Shame to say, most of us bought it. Now it transpires that there was a bit more to it than that. When a company refers to "serious accounting problems" it generally means something a touch more worrying than a spot of the creative staff. Profits for 1995 and in prior years were overstated, that much is certain. By how much we do not yet know. The accountants are still trying to work that out. It is hard to see how Mr Sweetbaum, one of

that exclusive club of executives earning more than £1m a year, can avoid falling on his sword.

More than half his salary last year was bonus. He believes in incentivising his employees with performance-related pay too, and thought this part of the Wickes success story. The problem is that bonus-related pay also provides a powerful motive for cooking the books.

How the board and the auditors, Arthur Andersen, could have allowed this to go unnoticed is anyone's guess. What appears to have been going on is a relatively common little scam. There's even been an instance of it in DIY before. It happened at Icas too. So much for all the Cadbury rules and structures put in place to halt the creative accounting practices of the past. They don't seem to have done much good in this case.

Nor did they stop an undignified scramble for the exit among City professionals as they caught wind of the problems. A very substantial quantity of stock was sold before Wickes made its announcement and the shares were suspended. As usual the big boys got out, leaving the little fellow to face the worse, trapped in the stock and unable to sell. A shabby little episode all round.

Tunnel sweetener must be worth considering

The idea might seem rather hard to take on board right now but in 37 years time

when Eurotunnel's concession to operate the Channel Tunnel runs out, British and French taxpayers will inherit a licence to print money, not just by the bucketful but by the trainload. By 2052, Eurotunnel's £28m debt nightmare will be a very dim memory, the loans will have long been repaid and the tunnel will be the closest thing you will see to a pure profit machine.

In those circumstances, what government in its right mind would short-change the taxpayers of tomorrow by granting Eurotunnel shareholders of today a 30-40-year extension to their concession? Franco's would because right now it is more alarmed at the prospect of 500,000 enraged investors rampaging through the streets of Paris in protest than the wrath of future taxpayers. Britain, on the other hand, seems determined to defend the next generation's cash cow to the last.

The Government's motives are obviously reasonable enough. But if an extension to the concession is the sweetener that secures the debt refinancing Eurotunnel needs to survive, it seems a price worth considering. For it is government which is in part to blame for Eurotunnel's present pickle by inflating the cost of the tunnel, failing to build supporting rail infrastructure on time and giving the ferries a duty-free extension. If an appeal to its sense of moral duty fails, the British Government might care to reflect on what sort of advertisement it would be for its much-vaunted Private Finance Initiative if Eurotunnel is ultimately buried at sea.

Wickes in disarray over accounts flaw

NIGEL COPE

Wickes, the UK's third-largest DIY company, was plunged into disarray yesterday when the company said the discovery of "serious accounting problems" may have led to the overstating of group profits and shareholders funds last year. Earlier years' profits may also have been overstated.

Wickes shares were suspended at 69p compared with Monday's 109p close. However, after-hours trades on Monday of 159,000 shares at 80p are expected to prompt a Stock Exchange enquiry.

The accounting errors will place considerable pressure on Henry Sweetbaum, Wickes chairman and chief executive who earned £1.2m last year including a £750,000 long-term bonus. Mr Sweetbaum had

been expected to step down from the chief executive position next year. That move was now likely to be accelerated, some analysts said.

Mr Sweetbaum, who only returned from Russia earlier this week, was said to be "devastated" by the crisis. After the collapse of its share price Wickes will now be a takeover target. Analysts see it as a fundamentally sound business that might attract the attention of Kingfisher, which controls the B&Q chain or a builders merchant such as Graham. At yesterday's price, Wickes is valued at £260m.

Though full details of the accounting problems have yet to emerge, they relate to the way the company has been accounting for supplier discounts and contributions towards in-store promotions. It is thought



Sweetbaum: Devasted on return from Russia

that long-term suppliers to Wickes give the company discounts on goods supplied, assuming Wickes will generate a certain volume of sales.

If those sales fail to materi-

alise and the discounts are later rescinded, the group's profits margins could be affected. The practice of booking supplier discounts as profits is not uncommon but questions remain unanswered on Wickes' timing of the bookings.

A similar problem emerged earlier at a Wickes subsidiary in Europe and some analysts have been critical about the company's accounting practices.

"One might have expected Arthur Andersen [the company's auditors] to have looked carefully at the UK accounts after the situation in Europe," one analyst said.

The company will conduct an immediate investigation to discover the scale of the problem. There are no current plans to bring in outsiders to probe the accounting errors. A spokesman said: "There's no fraud. No

cash has gone missing and there has been no personal gain. The stock and the cash position remain unchanged. It's really about the timing of the way these discounts were booked."

Wickes said it was unlikely that Mr Sweetbaum might have to repay all or part of his recent long-term bonus payments even though were linked to profits as well as share price performance.

Last year, Mr Sweetbaum's £750,000 bonus took his total pay to £1.2m making him one of the highest earners on the high street. The previous year he earned £1.1m including a long-term bonus of £670,000.

Last year Wickes recorded a £258m loss caused by £269m of exceptional losses relating to the sale of Hunter Timber and Builders Mate. The figure compared with profits of £30m in the previous year.

Wickes recruited a new finance director, Stuart Stradlin, a year ago from SG Warburg. He replaced Trevor Llewellyn, who is now at Caradon, the building materials group.

Wickes shares had been hit by a profits warning at the company's annual meeting in April when it said profits would fall significantly below those of the previous year due to a difficult first quarter and poor winter weather.

Prior to this, Wickes had been one of the most highly regarded companies in the difficult DIY sector. It appeared to have avoided the worst ravages of the recession by targeting the professional builder rather than the DIY enthusiast.

The company's supporters had been touting the shares as a good recovery play that would benefit from any upturn in the

SFO men fly to Tokyo for talks

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

Three Serious Fraud Office investigators fly out to Tokyo today to talk to Japanese officials about the Sumitomo copper scandal.

But an SFO spokesman said they were not expected to see Yasuo Hamanaka, the copper trader who lost £1.2bn for his firm and possibly far more.

"They are to meet our counterparts in the Ministry of Justice to build close relations with the authorities over there," said the SFO.

The SFO team comprises Andrew Jackson, the lawyer conducting the inquiry, Michael O'Brien Kenney, a forensic accountant whose job is to trace the financial links in the fraud, and detective chief inspector Michael Fox of the City of London Police, who is working with the SFO.

The SFO indicated that the visit, which is likely to last only until the weekend, is aimed chiefly at doing the groundwork for a liaison between Japanese and British investigators. This is expected to last a long time, given the complexity of the inquiries into the fraud.

There are rumours Mr Hamanaka is being kept by the Japanese authorities in a "safe house" pending an interrogation. But Japanese sources said it

was absurd to suggest he had been locked away by the authorities without charge.

One suggestion is that he has been hiding from the Japanese press since he was dismissed by Sumitomo two weeks ago. A Sumitomo spokesman said: "We are not in touch with Mr Hamanaka."

According to a report by the Japanese news agency Jiji Press, the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission questioned Mr Hamanaka for two days in April, well before news of the loss came out.

London Metal Exchange copper yesterday dived to a new 2½-year low in late afternoon trading on widespread and heavy selling which is bound to increase the losses of Sumitomo Corporation. So far it has rejected claims that these could amount as high as \$4bn (£2.6bn).

Some of the selling began just after a statement by Global Minerals and Metals of New York that two of its Chile-based traders had resigned for personal reasons in a development it said was not related to inquiries into losses at Sumitomo. Three months delivery copper plunged to end at \$1.745 a tonne, well down on Monday's \$1.818 close. It earlier hit a high of \$1.865.

"Copper is heading towards \$1,600... There is little to stop it," a trader said.

IN BRIEF

• Telecommunications watchdog Ofcom announced key amendments in Mercury's licence which will give the telephone operator much greater flexibility in pricing of services. From now on it will not have to publish changes to its tariff structure 28 days in advance, allowing it to file and introduce new prices on the same day. Mercury welcomed the licence change and said it would introduce a new pricing package for business customers on 1 July.

• United Airlines is looking for a Japanese partner, although talks are still at an early stage. Chairman and chief executive Gerald Greenwald said the US airline had held discussions with potential Japanese partners from time to time, though it was "not far along with partnership discussions in Japan". Asked about US-Air, he said no talks were being held with this or any other airline involving a substantial acquisition.

• Volvo, the Swedish industrial group, has unveiled plans to sell 46 million shares in Pharmacia & Upjohn, the newly merged transatlantic pharmaceuticals group. The global offering will involve two-thirds of Volvo's existing 13.8 per cent stake and will be aimed at buyers in the US, the Nordic countries and other international markets.

• The Central Customer Service Committee, part of the water industry's Ofwat regulatory body, has told the Monopolies and Mergers Commission it opposes Severn Trent's proposed bid for South West Water. The committee said the bid "seems to have little or no benefit for Severn Trent's own customers".

• Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang has decided not to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the proposed acquisition of the banana business Geest by Fyffes and the Windward Islands Banana Development and Exporting Company.

Rail privatisation: The team that won the Chiltern franchise yesterday sets out spending plans

M40 to put new stock on Chiltern

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

The two-and-a-half year moratorium on new rolling stock caused by the uncertainty over rail privatisation is to be ended by M40 Trains, which yesterday won the Chiltern Railway franchise.

M40, which is a management buyout team backed by 3i and John Laing, said it would spend £10m on four three-car diesel units within a month of the start of the franchise, which was likely to be on 21 July.

The company added that an announcement would be made in a month on who would build the trains, which will be used to increase the frequency on the Marylebone to Birmingham Snow Hill service and on extra services between Aylesbury and Marylebone. The trains will be leased, possibly from the manufacturer.

They are likely to be supplied by Adtranz. Daimler works and be a new, all-purpose 100 mph design, which the manufacturer hopes will be suitable for other new franchises and be in service by late 1998.

Rolling stock manufacturers, who have faced an empty order book, will be pleased that M40 seems to have found a way round the "residual value" problem which has stymied



Steaming ahead: MBO team hopes that the Chiltern rail service will challenge the West Coast Main Line from Euston

Photograph: John Lawrence

orders for new trains. This arose from the fact that the franchise, of which Chiltern is the eighth to be allocated, have been only for between seven and 15 years, while rolling stock has a 30- or 40-year life.

Some of the other new

franchisees have promised to order new trains, but none have committed themselves to doing it so quickly, or on such a short-term franchise.

The company hopes to reduce the journey time between London and Birmingham to

under two hours, posing serious competition to the West Coast Main Line from Euston, which is becoming increasingly unreliable while awaiting refurbishment of the line.

M40 trains will receive £16.5m in government subsidy

in its first year, exactly the same as BR would have received, but under the terms of the agreement the amount of subsidy will be reduced to £2.9m (at today's prices) by 2003/4.

The company is also committed to spending £1m on sta-

tion improvements, including creating 300 extra car park spaces, installing automatic ticket barriers at Marylebone station and creating 250 secure cycle racks, including 50 at Marylebone enabling commuters to leave bikes overnight.

Overseas investment levels soar to new record

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Direct investment in businesses overseas by companies in the industrial countries hit a record of more than \$250bn (£162bn) this year, climbing sharply for the third year running.

There was unprecedented investment abroad by American, British and German companies, while the same three countries, along with Canada and Sweden, also reported record inward investment.

Investment in developing countries is also likely to have increased sharply again from 1994's \$40bn.

A report published yesterday by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) argues that cheap labour is a secondary consideration for investment after access to markets and raw materials.

However, the OECD cautions that there could still be a backlash from workers who fear that their jobs might be put at risk by the increasing levels of foreign investment, which most governments have retained the power to control.

There are already some clear examples of the transfer of jobs across international borders as companies relocate factories. For instance, more than 2,000

	Inflows (\$m)		Outflows (\$m)	
	1994	1995	1994	1995
US	49,448	74,701	49,370	96,897
UK	11,066	29,910	29,721	37,839
France	10,955	12,156	10,895	9,582
Germany	3,003	9,012	14,587	34,890
Japan	888	37	17,938	22,262
OECD total	138,517	189,788*	187,550	242,890*

* based on incomplete data

Source: OECD

small and medium sized German companies have invested in the Czech Republic in the last few years to take advantage of lower wages.

"Although firms have been investing abroad for well over a

hundred years, never before have so many firms from so many industries invested in so many countries," the report says.

Mergers and acquisitions explained much of the surge, according to its latest Financial

Markets Trends. The pharmaceuticals and telecommunications industries dominated this activity, along with banking and electricity, gas and water utilities. The figures also include the reinvestment of earnings by existing overseas subsidiaries.

US investment abroad doubled last year to \$97bn - higher than the world direct investment total less than a decade ago. Europe was the prime destination. Investment in the US also reached an all-time high of \$75bn. Of this \$65bn came from Europe and \$47bn from Britain, Germany and Switzerland.

British firms invested \$27bn in the US, which is "possibly the

most that has ever been invested by one country in another in a single year," according to the OECD. Inward investment into Britain was a record \$30bn compared with outflows of \$38bn.

Between 1985 and 1994, the US and UK were host to the biggest cumulative inflows of direct investment, at \$402bn and \$172bn respectively. They were followed, at some distance, by China and France.

Although most foreign direct investment continues to be made by and in the industrial countries, a growing number of developing countries are joining in.

FILOFAX GROUP plc

(Incorporated and registered in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985 with number 1729641)

Introduction to the Official List by Hoare Govett Corporate Finance Limited of the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of Filofax Group plc

Ordinary share capital		Issued and fully paid	
Amount	Number	Amount	Number
£2,500,000	50,000,000	£1,506,173.70	30,123,474

Copies of the prospectus relating to Filofax Group plc, published on 26 June 1996, may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays) excepted up to and including 10 July 1996 from:

Hoare Govett Corporate Finance Limited
4 Broadgate
London EC2M 4LE

Filofax Group plc
Waverley House, 71/2 Noel Street
London W1V 4NE

and during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays) excepted up to and including 26 June 1996 for collection only from the Company's Announcements Office, Stock Exchange Tower, Capel Court entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2.

26 June 1996

business

Halma still has to earn its price

Halma is the growth stock par excellence and perhaps the biggest conglomerate that no one has ever heard of. After 25 years of earnings growth in excess of 20 per cent a year, it is now valued at almost £500m and anyone fortunate enough to have invested in the company's early stock market days in the 1970s would be sitting on a truly gargantuan profit.

If you had put £10,000 into Halma in 1974 it would now be worth more than £4m, even disregarding the benefit of a steadily rising flow of dividends. It is a story of relentless growth, partly fuelled by acquisitions, but mainly by a strict attention to improving margins and return on capital at the group's dozens of environmental control, fire and gas detection and safety and security businesses.

The good news continued yesterday with profits of £33.6m, a 15 per cent rise, representing another record performance. Earnings per share also rose 15 per cent to 8.58p after a 13 per cent rise in sales. After very strong cash flow, net cash at the end of the year to March increased to a new record of £19m, not the dividend jumped a healthy 20 per cent to 2.56p a share.

Other performance measures all moved in the right direction. The return on sales at 19.4 per cent has shown a steady rise from 16.1 per cent in 1991 and return on capital of 43 per cent is both impressive and rising as the chart shows.

All good news for the share price, you would have thought. Not a bit of it: the shares slipped 7p, or 4 per cent to 174p yesterday as the market, which has learnt to expect better-than-expected results, realised it had slightly overcooked its forecasts. The shares, despite their long-term success, have actually underperformed the market for a couple of years.

Which only goes to show that there is a price for everything and Halma's rise to a pretty demanding level two years back when its price/earnings ratio rose to the high 20s. The shares have since sat back and waited for earnings to catch up, which they have duly done. The questions facing investors now are the extent to which earnings growth may be losing its head of steam and what price it is appropriate to put on that growth.

On the basis of forecast profits of about £39m in the year to next March, giving earnings per share of 9.8p, earnings growth appears to have settled in the mid-teens. At 174p, the shares stand on a prospective p/e of 18, which looks quite full given the more subdued growth prospects.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

There is plenty of room to continue increasing the dividend but with a low yield that is unlikely to provide much support. A great company, but the shares are high enough.

Chloride back in the black

Chloride was one of the worst performing shares of the 1980s and results in the current decade have been even less inspiring. Since 1991, when Keith Hodgkinson moved over from GEC as chief executive, the accounts have been littered with exceptional charges as the management has gradually dumped the once-famous batteries business and moved into electronic and electrical products.

It has now returned to the black for only the second time in the five years Mr Hodgkinson has been at the helm. Pre-tax profits of £6.97m in the 12 months to March replaced a loss of £318,000 last time. The figures overstate the improvement, given that a previous

£2.79m loss on disposals turned into a gain of £1.38m in the latest period. Even so, operating profits from continuing businesses scored 48 per cent to £6.45m.

The group remains heavily dependent on its uninterruptible power supplies operation, which represents over four-fifths of group operating profits. But with computer networking growing in popularity and the use of ever-more sophisticated electronic apparatus in everything from shops to turnstile systems, prospects are good. With overall order levels up 30 per cent as well, last year's 22 per cent rise in profits to £4.36m should be repeatable.

Much of the rest of the group's growth from core businesses came from reduction or elimination of losses. Emergency lighting in the UK cut its deficit by around £300,000 and is now "just" back in profit, while the specialist battery chargers to power switching distribution division staged a £681,000 turnaround to profits of £364,000.

The company is now proposing to release £14m from its pension fund by effectively transferring most of the liabilities to Legal & General, and the company could have as much as £20m

to spend by the end of this year. Even so, questions remain. Advanced Design Electronics, the burglar alarm business for which Chloride paid £6.5m, has plunged to a £797,000 loss in its first full year with the group. Meanwhile it has yet to build a commanding position in any of its business areas.

Profits of £7m this year would put the shares up 0.25p to 29.25p, on a prospective p/e of 15. High enough for now.

Morrison bucks the market trend

Anyone who suggested floating a construction company on the stock market last year might have expected the hope to be turned on them. Construction output has fallen by a tenth in real terms in the last five years, and margins slashed as too many contractors chased too little work in the worst market conditions in living memory.

Yet Edinburgh-based Morrison Construction was yesterday basking in the glory of an impressive first set of preliminary results since the shares were placed at 115p in October, valuing the company at £77m. Morrison's warm reception continued, with the shares rising 2p to 163p on the figures.

The reason Morrison has been able to buck the market trend is that only a third of its business comes from traditional competitive tenders. The rest is gleaned from public finance initiative (PFI) work, property development projects and working with clients on creative design solutions.

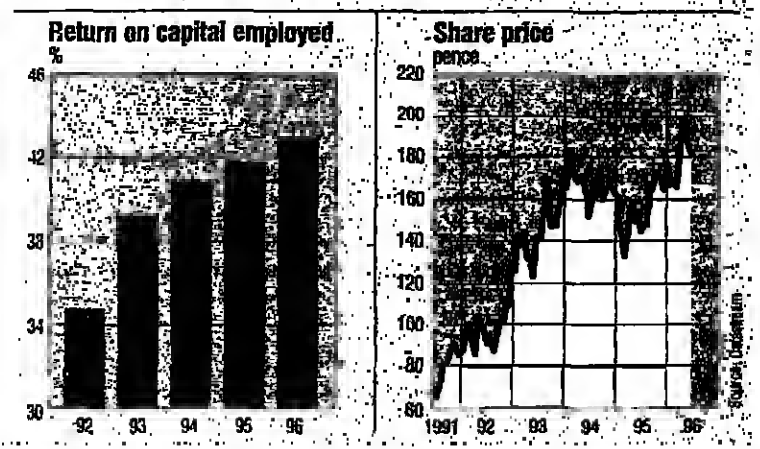
Proof that Morrison is not chasing market share for low- or no-margin work came from the turnover figure, which fell in the year to March from £218m to £210m. But operating margins continued on their upward path, rising from 3.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent, resulting in pre-tax profits 50 per cent higher at £11.4m. All four divisions – even housing – chipped in, though the biggest contribution came from building and property development, where operating profit of £6.1m were made on sales of £39.4m.

The £19m capital injection from the placing has left the balance sheet in good shape with net cash standing at £18.2m.

Brokers tweaked their forecasts higher and now look for pre-tax profits of about £14m. Further growth could come if overseas contracts – only 5 per cent of turnover – bear fruit or new life is breathed into the Government's struggling PFI initiative. In the meantime, a forward p/e ratio of 12 looks about right.

HALMA: AT A GLANCE

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
5-year record					
Turnover (£m)	1,120	1,200	1,250	1,300	1,350
Pre-tax profits (£m)	14.2	20.9	25.1	20.2	33.6
Earnings per share (pence)	1.24	1.49	1.78	2.14	3.08
Dividends per share (pence)	1.24	1.49	1.78	2.14	3.08



Yes minister, there seems to be a football match on

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK



How delightful to discover that SmithKline Beecham sponsors a box at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden to entertain employees. The son of the inventor of the original Beecham's pills was, of course, Sir Thomas Beecham (pictured above), one of this country's most distinguished conductors. No doubt shareholders would approve of this glorious tradition.

nounced the float. Now if we can just get him to forecast a Germany win...

While the nation sits stupefied in front of the telly, swigging from cans and dreading another penalty shoot-out or more plucky Brits at Wimbledon, eight teams from the City are off to get some fresh air. The Wooden Spoon Society's Four Peaks Challenge is upon us.

The teams of a driver and three runners have to scale four peaks in 48 hours – Ben Nevis in Scotland, Seafell Pike in England, Snowdon in Wales and Curantouhill in Ireland – totalling 14,000 feet. Renters have two teams, one of which got off to a flying start on a recent practice run. Driver Helen Lofthouse managed to get done for speeding and get a parking ticket. Stick to the telly, Helen.

Has Ofel been caught off-side? The Government is soon to decide whether to accept the telecoms regulator's linked proposals – an inflation-based price control for BT coupled with new regulatory powers for Ofel to act against anti-competitive behaviour.

BT accepts the price idea but wants competitive issues to stay with the OFT.

Lord Marsh, in a quick one-two in the Lords, has followed up a question on the status of Ofel's plans with a supplementary on whether the Government could come up with some compromise.

Lords Peston, Ezra, Tebbit and Hooson, in defensive back-line, have supported Lord Marsh and wrong-footed Ofel by arguing that its proposed anti-competitive powers allow no right of appeal.

The Government has now gone back to the drawing board. One insider muses: "The problem with Ofel is that it is not always certain if it is player or referee."

IN BRIEF

• Anageu, a biotechnology group, is in discussions with three potential marketing partners to replace Organon Teknika, part of Alzo Nobel, which last year withdrew from an agreement to sell its Anaflex automated immunoassay system. The system is used for the testing of medical and food samples. Consideration is also being given to marketing the system through national distributors based in key countries. Anageu also said it regretted "wholly unjustified and unfounded allegations" in the weekend press concerning former venture partner Integrated Technologies.

• Rezac director Eric Priestley is to leave the company at the end of July to join Jefferson Smurfit as executive vice-president and chief operating officer.

• Scott Pickford yesterday shrugged aside legal proceedings begun against the company by Westclay, a private company controlled by former director, AB Phipps. The claims, which concern a share sale agreed at the end of 1993, were without merit and no provision would be made for any liability, said Scott Pickford chairman Ian Maxwell Scott. The company is seeking a listing on AIM, with dealings due to begin next month. It expects an improved performance this year, after reporting a dip in pre-tax profits from £583,000 to £417,000 in the year to March. Tony Birch is to step down as chief executive after seven years.

• Tinsley Rober is to raise around £11.4m in a one-for-three rights issue at 130p. The new money will be used to finance the group's capital investment programme and provide the flexibility to continue the expansion of the business. The group warned that its strategic objectives were being hindered by delay in the delivery of some new generation machinery, along with the costs of its installation. The ground work was being laid for further improvements in results, it said as it unveiled a 57 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.51m for the 1995-96 year.

• Business Post, one of the UK's largest independent parcel and mail carriers, was upbeat yesterday as it revealed that profits had jumped 42 per cent to £13m in the year to March. Michael Kane, chief executive, said the current year had started well. Sales growth, operating efficiencies and sound cost control should enable it to continue to deliver some of the highest margins in the sector, he added.

• Directors of Therapeutic Antibodies, a biotechnology group coming to market next month, are due to pick up emoluments totalling nearly \$573,000 this year. The board and other officers of the company will own a stake worth over £40m, assuming the float achieves the expected £150m market capitalisation.

Campari crashes as rescue is called off

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Campari International, the sports and leisure clothing group, is to go into liquidation after failing to complete a £4m-£5m refinancing. The decision was made at a board meeting on Monday after three potential bidders pulled out at the eleventh hour.

With little or nothing likely to be salvaged for shareholders, Wing Tai, the Hong Kong family company which owns just under 30 per cent of the company, is likely to face a loss of around £8m. Paul Sanderson, chairman of Sanderson Electronics, also faces substantial losses, having bought into the company in November 1994. He controls a 23.4 per cent stake. The shares were suspended yesterday at 28p.

Campari chalked up losses of £8.61m in 1993 and £7.69m in 1994. Felham Allen, the company doctor brought in as chairman last year, said they had been unable to obtain sufficient working capital to finance autumn and winter orders.

Shareholders' funds have fallen to £4m from £22m in December 1992. "Basically, £8m was knocked off in each of the last two years from losses. The business needs £8m-£10m of shareholders' funds to support the business and we could not achieve that," Mr Allen said.

Earlier this month, Campari announced that a private UK textile company had made a proposal involving the provision of additional working capital. However, that company had now come to the conclusion that Campari's requirements were too great.

Mr Allen said they had come "very, very close" to bringing in the new backers. But he added: "Textiles is not a popular sector. We are in a turnaround situation. We had stopped the losses, but had been unable to reduce the risk to get the new money in."

The group was given a stay of execution last year when shareholders, including Wing Tai and Mr Sanderson, hacked a £1m emergency financing package following a six month suspension of the shares and a boardroom clear-out. Mr Allen said discussions were now taking place with a possible buyer in Holland.

Irish newspaper group reveals £250m war-chest

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Independent Newspapers, the Dublin-based international publisher, has earmarked up to £250m for acquisitions in the print, radio and television markets world-wide, the company revealed yesterday, following the launch of a one-for-three rights issue aimed at raising £106m (£109m).

Tony O'Reilly, the company chairman and its largest shareholder, is putting in £22m of his own money to keep his holding at roughly 26 per cent. "Yes, it's quite a big underwriting," Dr O'Reilly said yesterday, following the company's annual general meeting in Dublin. But he said it was justified by the growth prospects.

"Effectively we are de-gearing the company," he said. Asked what the company might buy, he said: "It could be the purchase of nationals or regionals in Britain, it could be expansion in South Africa or consolidation in New Zealand or further investment in Australia."

The rights issue, which will reduce gearing to just 14 per cent from 56 per cent currently, will give the company "much greater flexibility to move quickly when we need to," finance director James Parkinson said.

"We are shown a lot of interesting opportunities, and need to be flexible," he said. "This was a good time to go to the market."

The company owns or co-owns newspapers in Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and the UK, where it holds 46 per cent of the Independent. It has newspapers worth about £1.2bn under administration, and publishes 12 million newspapers a week world-wide. The group has been linked to a number of possible acquisition targets, most recently the ailing Express titles.

Mr Parkinson declined to comment on specific targets, but said the company's interest in the UK was limited to the print sector. Overseas, both radio and television were viewed as attractive, he said, confirming that the company would consider bidding for radio licences in South Africa. Earlier this year, a consortium in which Independent Newspapers was a member bought Radio New Zealand, the privatised radio company.

Mr Parkinson said that both television and radio companies in the UK were "on the expensive side," but that there were opportunities in overseas markets. Australia was viewed as the most likely target for future growth. Dr O'Reilly's son, Cameron, is chief executive of Australian Provincial Newspapers, the Independent affiliate company, and has been based in Sydney since 1988.

MATHEW HORSMAN

Racal Electronics yesterday became the latest UK company to plunge into the exploding market for Internet business services, announcing a plan to connect government departments and private-sector clients to the global "network of networks".

The news followed confirmation earlier this month that BT, in league with its US partner MCI, planned to spend £300m upgrading their network to supply businesses with Internet connections. Cable companies are also developing Internet services for their telephone customers, and at least two operators plan to develop national networks to support telephony and business applications for the Internet.

Telewest Communications, the country's largest cable company, is considering applying for a national network licence, and will be rolling out cable modems later this year, targeting business customers. The third largest cable op-



Telecoms expansion: Racal chairman Sir Ernest Harrison.

erator, International CableTel, bought transmission company NTL earlier this year, promising to develop a national network. The US telephone giant AT&T is also planning to provide business Internet services in the UK and on the Continent. Under chairman Sir Ernest Harrison, Racal has been aggressively expanding its telecom-

munications business. The company spent £133m late last year to buy British Rail Telecom, a network of 5,000 miles of trunk cables and 7,000 miles of distribution cable.

The Internet market currently boasts about 20 million users worldwide, and analysts forecast rapid growth in the next five years. The network is particularly attractive for clients looking to communicate not only internally but with suppliers and customers across the globe.

Racal also announced yesterday that a consortium in which it has a leading role had won a multi-million pound contract to reconfigure the Ministry of Defence's accounting, financial management and planning systems. The contract, part of the Government's resource accounting and budgeting initiative, known as Capital, will see Racal Datacom design and supply infrastructure and cabling for the new system, in association with management consultants Deloitte and Touche and Coopers & Lybrand.

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market report/shares

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FT-SE 250
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FT-SE 350
1861.5 -16.9

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29,684 bargains

Gifts Index
92.52 +0.03

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

Shares price, pence



Run of bad news ends a bleak year for blue chips

MARKET REPORT
DEREK PAIN
Stock market reporter
of the year

This year has been a wipe-out for blue chips. The FT-SE 100 index closed at 3,679.5 points, 9.8 below the level it started the year.

The stock market has clearly found the latest run of poor trading news too much to handle. Although hopes are running high for profits next year there has been a series of high-profile downgrades, such as Imperial Chemical Industries. And the wounding speculation about whether BTR will be able to hold its dividend has taken its toll.

The fragile atmosphere was ill-prepared for the self-imposed demolition job from Wicks, a sort of do-it-yourself builder's merchant, its shares officially opened at 100p although there was an overnight trade at 80p. They were quickly suspended at 60p, but not before other City professionals had escaped at prices as low as 65p.

The hesitancy was not helped by rumours that a large investment house had turned negative on market prospects and aggressive futures selling by Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Merrill Lynch. The political uncertainty, heightened by the Portillo rebellion, sliced into already taut nerves.

The dramatic slowdown in investment interest has left the market long of stock, leaving market-makers little choice but to lower prices.

Unlike many earlier retreats blue chips were not alone in their suffering. The rest of the market was hit, with second and third-line prices crumbling.

Conglomerates, largely due to BTR's difficulties, dominated the market. BTR continued its debilitating retreat, down to 246p, off 9p. The 1995/96 warrents went further out of the money, off 3p at 5p. They offer the right to buy shares at 250p.

BTR's difficulties put the

Hanson demerger under even more pressure, with the shares falling 5p to 174.5p, a 12-month low. Some analysts have suggested a near-240p demerger valuation.

Other conglomerates looking less than happy included Tiscum, off 3p at 236p, Wassall 4p at 286p and TT, involved in a controversial tender offer for the Johnston building materials group, 3.5p to 347p. Caradon lost 2p to 221p.

Grand Metropolitan was one of the few blue-chips to ignore the gathering clouds. In brisk trading the shares rose 7p to 419p, against 464p at the turn of the year.

Shares of a US break-up bid, splitting the food and drink sides, continue to intrigue; there is also a persistent suggestion that Guinness could be involved in any action, perhaps bidding for the wine and spirit division.

The group has admitted it looked at the possibilities of a break-up but concluded it would not be in shareholders' interests. However, the market believes the decision could be taken out of Grand Met's hands. Its weak share performance - the price hit a 50p peak four years ago - leaves it vulnerable to a strike.

Sam Life & Provincial continued to demonstrate how not to handle a flotation, with the

price falling 11p to 221p, a yawning 14p gap from the issue price.

Reniers, ahead of investment meetings, rose 4p to 76p, and BT lost 7.5p to 3349.5p, with Dennis Exton at Nikko wondering whether telephone groups could be overwhelmed by the Internet explosion.

Amrad surged 36p to 184p on the possibility of takeover bid from Pison, the hand-held computer group, off 25p at 350p.

Argyll, the Safeway chain, fell 6p to 336p. Nick Bubb at Mee Pierson says the group, after nearly being squeezed out by its rivals, has become a strong player. He sees profits of £450m this year with £513m next.

Prudential Corporation added 4p to 405p as it confirmed it intended to float Mercantile & Marine. It is expected to sell 40 per cent of the reinsurance company.

Lease Industries put on 4p to 231p in brisk trading, re-

awakening suspicions that a major group will merge into its merger with Vario, the US car parts group.

Television shares stirred on suggestions that Scottish TV is talking to Grampian. Scottish lost 14p to 678p.

Credit Lyonnais Laing, ahead of next month's defence contracts, alighted on British Aerospace and Hunting as beneficiaries. BAE added 3p to 993p and Hunting was little changed at 179p.

Northern, Europe's largest closed circuit TV distributor, gained 13p to 538p after a 28.3 per cent profit increase to £5.3m. Panmure Gordon expects £6.4m this year.

Anglo United, doubled to 1p on hopes it will get some benefit from the expected Falkland Islands oil boom. Pan Andean was little changed at 85p; an encouraging statement on its Bolivian oil adventure is expected in the next two weeks.

■JHI-Tec, the sports shoe maker, has had a spectacular run since Blacks Leisure's fine results. The shares put on 4p to 57p, a 12 month peak. The company was back in the black at the interim stage and should have made further headway, perhaps approaching 22m for the year.

■Cambridge Mineral Resources, close on Oxfam next month, is looking for gemstones in Ireland, Spain and Sweden. Backers include David Bramhill, a director of Pan Andean. It has applied for six licences in Ireland and is thought to have agreed to acquire control of two diamond concessions in Sweden.

■Latest AIM hit is Staffware, a software group with work-flow systems. Placed by Henderson Crosthwaite at 225p the shares closed at 254p.

Alcoholic Beverages

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	10.00	0.00
Beck's	10.00	0.00
Carlsberg	10.00	0.00
Heineken	10.00	0.00
Inter-Continental	10.00	0.00
Johnnie Walker	10.00	0.00
Miller	10.00	0.00
Paulaner	10.00	0.00
Reckitt Benckiser	10.00	0.00
Stout	10.00	0.00
Tate & Lyle	10.00	0.00
Watney	10.00	0.00

Banks, Merchant

Company	Price	Change
Barclays	10.00	0.00
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00
Bank of Ireland	10.00	0.00
Bank of London	10.00	0.00
Bank of Montreal	10.00	0.00
Bank of New York	10.00	0.00
Bank of Paris	10.00	0.00
Bank of Spain	10.00	0.00
Bank of Sweden	10.00	0.00
Bank of Switzerland	10.00	0.00
Bank of Tokyo	10.00	0.00
Bank of West	10.00	0.00

Engineering Vehicles

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	10.00	0.00
Beck's	10.00	0.00
Carlsberg	10.00	0.00
Heineken	10.00	0.00
Inter-Continental	10.00	0.00
Johnnie Walker	10.00	0.00
Miller	10.00	0.00
Paulaner	10.00	0.00
Reckitt Benckiser	10.00	0.00
Stout	10.00	0.00
Tate & Lyle	10.00	0.00
Watney	10.00	0.00

Extractive Industries

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	10.00	0.00
Beck's	10.00	0.00
Carlsberg	10.00	0.00
Heineken	10.00	0.00
Inter-Continental	10.00	0.00
Johnnie Walker	10.00	0.00
Miller	10.00	0.00
Paulaner	10.00	0.00
Reckitt Benckiser	10.00	0.00
Stout	10.00	0.00
Tate & Lyle	10.00	0.00
Watney	10.00	0.00

Food Manufacturers

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	10.00	0.00
Beck's	10.00	0.00
Carlsberg	10.00	0.00
Heineken	10.00	0.00
Inter-Continental	10.00	0.00
Johnnie Walker	10.00	0.00
Miller	10.00	0.00
Paulaner	10.00	0.00
Reckitt Benckiser	10.00	0.00
Stout	10.00	0.00
Tate & Lyle	10.00	0.00
Watney	10.00	0.00

Health Care

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	10.00	0.00
Beck's	10.00	0.00
Carlsberg	10.00	0.00
Heineken	10.00	0.00
Inter-Continental	10.00	0.00
Johnnie Walker	10.00	0.00
Miller	10.00	0.00
Paulaner	10.00	0.00
Reckitt Benckiser	10.00	0.00
Stout	10.00	0.00
Tate & Lyle	10.00	0.00
Watney	10.00	0.00

Household Goods

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	10.00	0.00
Beck's	10.00	0.00
Carlsberg	10.00	0.00
Heineken	10.00	0.00
Inter-Continental	10.00	0.00
Johnnie Walker	10.00	0.00
Miller	10.00	0.00
Paulaner	10.00	0.00
Reckitt Benckiser	10.00	0.00
Stout	10.00	0.00
Tate & Lyle	10.00	0.00
Watney	10.00	0.00

Insurance

Company	Price	Change
Adnoca	10.00	0.00
Beck's	10.00	0.00
Carlsberg	10.00	0.00
Heineken	10.00	0.00
Inter-Continental	10.00	0.00
Johnnie Walker	10.00	0.00
Miller	10.00	0.00
Paulaner	10.00	0.00
Reckitt Benckiser	10.00	0.00
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Bred for profits, treated with barbarity

Paul Field reports on a call by MPs for a clampdown on the puppy trade

MPs are calling for a ban on pet shops selling puppies as part of a clampdown on the sickening trade which produces at least 50,000 dogs a year, bred for massive profits on unlicensed farms in appalling conditions.

The animals are, at worst, confined to small pens, rarely exercised and forced to live in their own filth. They are traumatised, deprived of contact with their mothers and suffer health problems.

A report published yesterday claims that legal loopholes and poor enforcement allow unscrupulous breeders to escape prosecution in a trade worth millions of pounds. There is also concern that some licensed breeders are flouting the

■ dogs are kept in cramped or unsuitable conditions;
■ bitches are bred too often;
■ dogs are given insufficient exercise and human contact.

Under current legislation farms with two or more breeding bitches must obtain a licence from the local authority but this requires only that consideration is taken of the structural surroundings the animals are kept in, basic feeding requirements and exercise arrangements.

However, the Puppy Farm Working Group is concerned that the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 does not compel the local authority to ensure the health and welfare of the animals are reasonable before a licence is granted. RSPCA inspector Rohan Barker said: "The problem is that whenever we visit these farms the breeders claim the bitches are only pets and that the animals are regularly exercised. It is so frustrating because we are so powerless."

The group recommends that a veterinary surgeon should accompany local authority inspectors before a licence is granted and every farm should be visited on an annual basis before a licence is renewed.

The group believes the current penalty for unlicensed breeders of £2,500 is sufficient but recommends local authorities should take tougher action against them. The best way to ensure that more premises become licensed is to demonstrate that those who break the law will be penalised.

The report highlights the involvement of dealers - some breeders sell direct but, more often, a middleman offers puppies for sale to pet shops, at car-boot sales or through classified advertisements in newspapers.

law to increase profits. One litter of pedigree puppies could have a retail value of £3,000.

The working party which produced the report was set up by the Commons All Party Animal Welfare Group and included representatives from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the British Veterinary Association, the Kennel Club, the National Canine Defence League and the British Small Animals Veterinary Association.

Copies have been passed to the Prime Minister, Home Office minister Tom Sackville, Environment minister David Curry and the Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, because of concern about the export of puppies, sometimes for consumption in the Far East.

Tory MP Roger Gale, chairman of the group, said: "This is a national problem. We are seeking to ensure that all puppies sold are bred by licensed breeders. If we can achieve that then we might be able to start to stamp out this evil trade. We will be seeking all-party support for the introduction and implementation of legislation."

The report lists as particular problems:

■ puppies are taken from their mothers too early;



Living asset: Legal loopholes and poor enforcement are allowing unscrupulous breeders to escape prosecution in a trade worth millions of pounds

Plight of 15 terriers trapped in a farm cottage

Collies chained to a post, labradors cowering in their own filth, a German Shepherd darting back and forth in a cramped pen, half a dozen puppies in a bread basket in total darkness...

These were some of the distressing scenes in the video footage taken by the RSPCA in recent months at puppy farms in Wales, and shown at a press conference in Westminster yesterday, writes Paul Field.

Rohan Barker has been an RSPCA inspector for seven years. He has seen cockfighting and appalling cruelty to animals

but he was still shocked by what he filmed.

In April, he visited the house of an elderly woman who bred Airedale terriers. The woman had 15 terriers on the premises at the end of a dirt track and about the same number of mongrels. Most were in a filthy condition and the house was littered with excrement. In barns, Mr Barker and his colleagues found bitches weaning puppies in cramped pens, covered in mould.

The woman admitted she regularly sold puppies through newspaper advertisements. She

claimed she did not need a licence because she did not have more than two bitches for breeding. The RSPCA spotted five.

As in most cases, prosecution did not follow. The RSPCA sends details of visits to local authorities but action is seldom taken. Mr Barker recalls one success in 1994 after he discovered puppies kept in two-foot square boxes, with the lid sealed down. The breeder was found guilty of causing unneces-

sary suffering and barred from keeping dogs for 10 years. The story is typical of the trade, perpetuated by unsuspecting dog lovers who would rather meet a dealer in a lay-by and pay £50 less for a pedigree puppy than travel to the farm to check on breeding conditions.

"The problem is the dealers supply the pet shops as well," said Mr Barker. "So the best bet is to go to a farm."

Jacqui Cresswell agrees. She

bought an eight-week-old golden retriever last August for £185, and named her Honey. She had responded to a newspaper advertisement and went to kennels in Essex to collect the puppy.

Within a week, Honey was dead, from parvovirus which breaks down the immune system. Honey vomited and suffered diarrhoea, despite veterinary efforts to treat her and 24-hour attention from Mrs Cresswell. "It was a horrific death and she was in such distress," she said.

However, when she tele-

phoned the dealer to demand a refund and reimbursement for £350 in vet fees, she was told she had been sold a healthy puppy.

The kennel owner was licensed to sell puppies in a commercial venture and is still operating. "If you want to buy a puppy I suggest you go to a rescue centre or seek advice about buying direct from a breeder," said Mrs Cresswell.

Since launching a campaign to stamp out puppy farming last October, the National Canine Defence League has been given 2,000 similar stories.

The Independent crossword: Sports Section, page 12



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THE INDEPENDENT

summer of sport

Wednesday 26 June 1996



Prepare well for a night to savour



Keith Elliott

Anyone who was around in the 1960s is supposed to remember where they were when John Kennedy was shot. I'll have a small hat that any true-blooded Englishman of that vintage will have far more vivid memories of what they were doing when England beat Germany in the 1966 World Cup final.

Our greatest footballing moment? Well, there haven't been a lot to choose from over the past 30 years, have there? That's why it's crucial we prepare for tonight's match as carefully as we hope Terry Venables is doing.

Non-football enthusiasts might puzzle over why the nation is getting so frenzied about The Match. "It's not even the final," they argue. What these sad souls do not realise is that victory tonight is more important than winning the final. England might be the old enemy for Scottish fans but, for the English, beating the Germans is far more satisfying than turning over the Jocks, whom we usually beat anyway.

The tabloids have been conducting a campaign of German warfare since the weekend, while the broadsheets have been far more restrained. You can snigger at *Sun* readers thinking xenophobia is a dislike of Chinese philosophy but, mark my words, tonight's game will bring out the bigot in us all. To hell with the better team winning - just let it be us.

If you have any sense, you will be reading this at home rather than on your way to work. British Rail is staffed entirely by football-haters who will relish the opportunity to announce this evening: "There has been a serious delay to all trains..." Buses will break down and lorries driven by malicious Scotsmen will shed their loads across three lanes of every major motorway. Don't let them catch you out.

There are certain other precautions to take. Unplug the telephone because there is certain to be a plague of wrong numbers between 7.30pm and 9.15pm. Disconnect the doorbell and secure all doors. Get rid of the family. Locking them in a cupboard may seem extreme, but giving valium to particularly noisy children or pets is perfectly acceptable.

Getting dressed up is not compulsory. Office workers may find their grey suits, perhaps with adhesive stick-on numbers on the jacket, are all that is needed. If eating during the match, make sure you order your pizza delivery to arrive at least an hour before kick-off. Alcohol beverages will heighten your appreciation of refereeing decisions in a way that tea or orange juice can never do.

Champagne should be your preferred drink. It has the double advantage that you can shake the bottle and squirt it all over yourself when England win. Dutch and Swiss beer is acceptable, but do not in any circumstances consume anything made in Germany or Austria.

This may all seem like a lot of effort just for 90 minutes of football. But, in 30 years' time, you will be able to look back and say proudly: "I was there."

Well, sort of...

England searching for the heroes inside themselves

By Glenn Moore, Football Correspondent

England enters the realm of opportunity at Wembley tonight. The stakes are enormous. The players can clinch a place in Sunday's European Championship final, the fans can shorten the odds on a home World Cup.

The prospect of a successful English bid for the 2006 World Cup is but one of many subplots behind tonight's drama. There is also the inescapable historical background, and a number of individual stories beginning with those of Phil Neville and Jürgen Klinsmann. But, come 7.30pm, all will be submerged by a match which has the potential to be a classic. This is not because England and Germany are packed with great players and thrilling talents, though each have their share, but because both are full of the courage and spirit which ensures their matches are never over until the final whistle.

Germany are probably the one team which can match the British ones for character. The history of previous meetings suggests that the teams bring the best from each other. The game is certain to be tough, but unlikely to be spiteful; tight, but not

negative. If Klinsmann does not play England's attack has the advantage - but Germany's defence has only been breached once in four games.

If Klinsmann does not play... will he? Won't he? Yesterday, after laser, massage, electrical and chemical treatment he said he "did not think" he would, which is a step closer than the previous day.

Klinsmann's expression when he left the field on Sunday suggested he will not start - but he is likely to be on the bench, stripped and apparently ready. If Germany are a goal down with minutes to go do not rule out an appearance.

His importance is more than just talismanic. Germany have spent two years searching for his partner, now they have to find two strikers. The likely pair, Stefan Kuntz and Oliver Bierhoff, are the sixth and seventh choices. Bierhoff, though 28, has only played six games for the national side. Kuntz has not scored in the last 15. His last goal was on 7 Sept 1994 - the same day as Shearer's last before Euro 96. Yet the pair ought not to be under-rated, and there are other



sources of goals, from Andy Miller and Mehmet Scholl in midfield, to the dangerous left wing-back Christian Ziege and influential sweeper Matthias Sammer. England, however, have the more obvious match-winners and that could prove crucial. Individual brilliance, as Karel Poborsky showed, can make the difference.

Andy Roxburgh, the former Scotland manager, has been following Euro 96 as Uefa's technical director. "A lot of games have turned on one incident," he noted. "A red card, or a penalty, or a great goal. The standard is so even, sides are so organised, everyone is studying everyone else. You need the great talents to make the difference. There are enough of

them left. Gascoigne is one. Shearer is another who can produce a goal from nothing."

So can Steve McManaman. The need to free him should ensure that Phil Neville wins his second England cap in place of his suspended elder brother Gary. McManaman was restricted in the first half against Spain by having to attend to Sergio's breaks from full-back. Ziege is just as much of a threat and, to counter him, England are expected to play Neville on the right.

It will be a bittersweet occasion for Neville, who admitted at Bisham Abbey yesterday: "I was gutted when Gary was booked. It was only at the end of the match I realised it meant I would have a chance of playing." Phil replaced Gary in the Manchester United team and ended up playing in the FA Cup final, but he added: "Gary has been playing brilliantly. I am sure he will be back if we get to this final. Maybe that will make up for the FA Cup."

The pair are very close - they are the only England players sharing a room - and Phil said: "We've never been rivals at sport. He'll be 100 per cent behind me tomorrow, as a brother and a team-mate." Neville may be inexperienced but

he has already shown impressive composure. Right-footed, he prefers to play at left-back, citing Germany's Andy Brehme as his inspiration. "He took corners and penalties with both feet. I've been striving to do that ever since." Both Nevilles watched Ziege, regarded in Germany as "the new Brehme", play at Old Trafford on their day off, on Sunday. "I like to watch opponents before I play them," Phil said.

He will be expected to push up, leaving the back three to attend to Germany's anticipated twin strike-force. If Germany play one up, Gareth Southgate will step into midfield.

Darren Anderton is the biggest doubt among England's club of injury victims. Paul Gascoigne, Teddy Sheringham and Tony Adams should all play. "Germany are very solid and very hard to draw out of position," Terry Venables, the England coach, said. "They are a counter-attacking team."

Venables also made a plea for the German national anthem to be respected. "We are showing the world we can create a great atmosphere without trouble. It is a football match. It has

nothing to do with events of 50 years ago. Some of the coverage, for this game and the Spain one, has gone too far. Insulting people's mother country is not funny."

Should inflammatory words be followed by violent actions, the FA may have to forget plans to bid for the 2006 World Cup. Ironically, this would leave the Germans free to pursue their intended bid.

You will not find footballers denigrating Germany. In the last 12 tournaments and 25 years, they have reached eight finals and won four. In that time England, who have beaten Germany just twice in nine encounters since 1966, have not reached a single final.

England can do so tonight, but it may take something special. Before Euro 96 began, Roxburgh held a seminar for all 16 coaches. He ended it with an inspirational football video set to the M People song: "Search for the hero inside yourself."

That is what Venables, the bulk of a Wembley full house, and more than 20 million TV viewers will be exhorting his players to do tonight.

ENGLAND v GERMANY					
1. David Seaman (Aston Villa)	1. Andreas Köpcke (Eintracht Frankfurt)	2. Stuart Pearce (N Forest)	2. Stefan Reuter (Dortmund)	3. Steve McManaman (Liverpool)	3. Dieter Elts (Bremen)
4. Phil Neville (Aston Villa)	4. Thomas Helmer (B Munich)	5. Paul Gascoigne (Rangers)	5. Mehmet Scholl (B Munich)	6. Darren Anderton (Tottenham)	6. Andreas Möller (Birmingham)
7. Gareth Southgate (A Villa)	7. Markus Babbel (B Munich)	8. Stuart Pearce (N Forest)	8. Stefan Reuter (Dortmund)	9. Paul Ince (Internazionale)	9. Christian Ziege (B Munich)
10. Darren Anderton (Tottenham)	10. Andreas Möller (Birmingham)	11. Alan Shearer (Blackburn)	11. Stefan Kuntz (Besiktas)	12. Tony Adams (Aston Villa)	12. Oliver Bierhoff (Udinese)

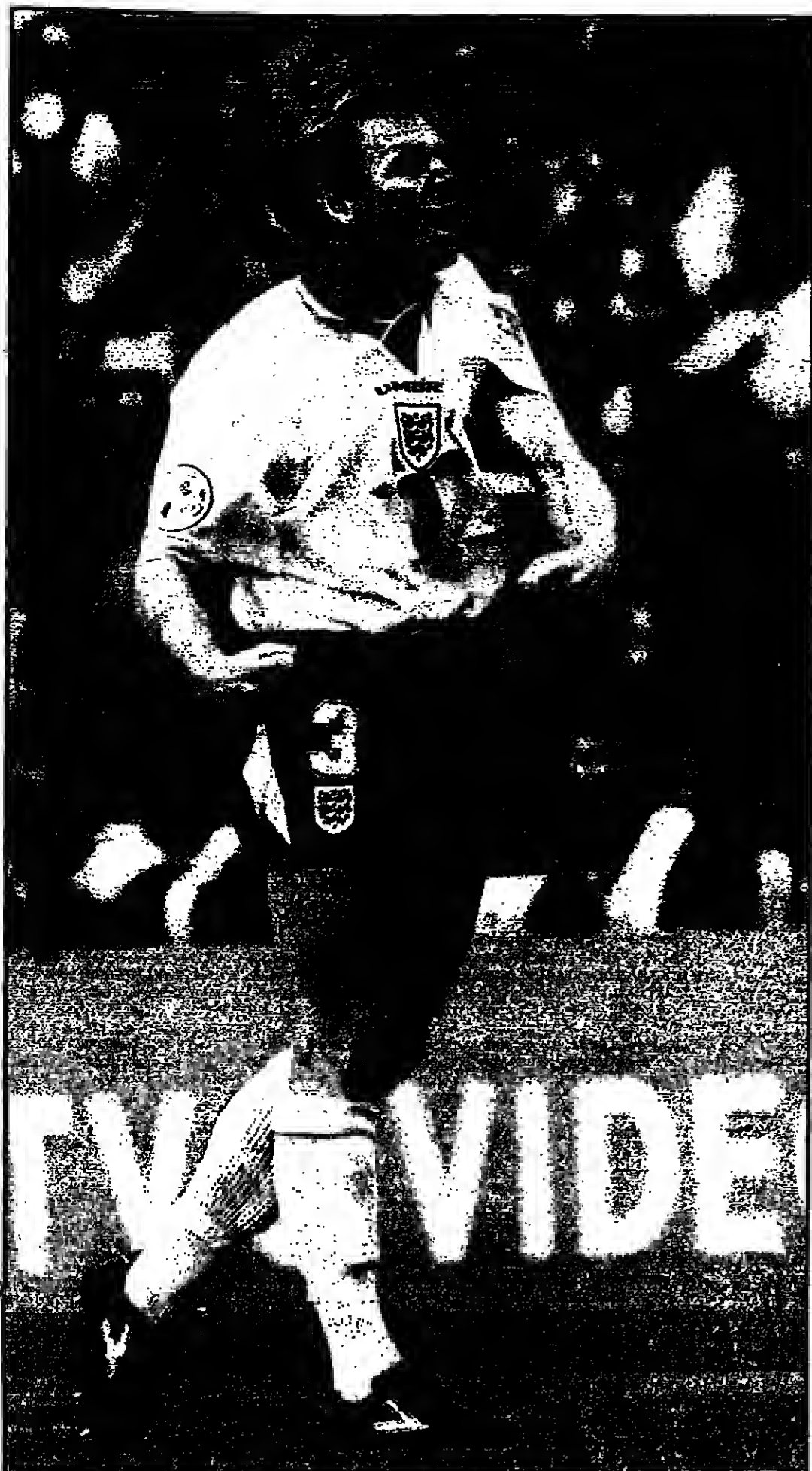
If anyone can England can

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TEAM ENGLAND

Plasterer's mate on the way to greatness



Stuart Pearce celebrates (above) after finally exorcising the ghost of his penalty miss against Germany in the 1990 World Cup semi-final in Turin (top right) in the quarter-final shoot-out against Spain last Saturday (bottom right) Photographs: David Ashdown/EPA/Robert Hallam

To celebrate his 50th birthday, George Best was invited by BBC2 to select his all-time fantasy football XI made up of players from the British Isles. Denis Law was in there, Bobby Moore, Jimmy Greaves, Bobby Charlton too, the XI was full of the kind of names standard in that type of in-jokes exercise. But there at left-back was an unexpected inclusion, proof positive, for some commentators, of the debilitating effects of alcohol. Never mind his appearance on *Wogan*, nothing confirmed that old Bestie's brain had finally added quite as conclusively as his selection, in his best team of all time, of Stuart Pearce.

Until last Saturday afternoon, Pearce was, for many commentators, a metaphor for the limitations of English football. Unquestionably wholehearted, committed, steel-tongued, he nevertheless lacked the technical capabilities required to make a difference at the highest level. The cut of his shorts seemed to say it all. Hitched up higher than is strictly necessary, they expose yards of thick thigh, the pistons to make this machine run and run all day. It was those legs that were, in several quarters, blamed for the disappointing international career of John Barnes. Instead of the clever ball-to-foot he was used to at Liverpool, when he played for England Barnes spent most of his time receiving atomic-powered trajectories drilled by the left-back at his shins. There was nothing deliberate in Pearce's bad passes, it was just that those body-builder thighs were too muscular to undertake any of the finer subtleties of the game. England would get nowhere with plasterers' mates like him in the side, it was reckoned: the moniker Psycho said it all.

Since Saturday, those of us who held such views have, like the television critic who suggested Alan Partridge lacked daring, been getting out a large dish, a knife and fork and have been eating our words. A door-to-door delivery business has been required to service the critical need for humble pie. On Saturday, Pearce proved us wrong. He gave ample demonstration that the qualities he possesses in abundance — those of courage, commitment and strength of character — are as valuable in the nerve-searing atmosphere of an international football tournament as any amount of subtlety and technique. The Spaniards may have worn beautifully cut shorts, but thanks to Pearce, they like the football, are going home.

"If you were in the trenches with this man you'd want him to go over with you first," said Alan Hansen immediately after Pearce's penalty

Jim White salutes Stuart Pearce, the England left-back whose spirit and bravery lifted a nation and silenced his many doubters

buried itself into the corner of the Spanish net. Hyperbolic it may seem in the cold light of reflection, but Hansen, as usual, had a point: at times football, like warfare, is advanced by acts of individual determination and courage rather than broader visions of tactics and strategy.

But there was more to Pearce's

ful because it was not what you expected of him. Reliability was his game, that and power, the two prerequisites for a penalty-taker, you would have thought. As he stepped up to face Bodo Illgner, the nation believed it had a banker. Instead the lionhearted Pearce. It was the great if-only, he couldn't be com-

a fantasy sequence in which Pearce doesn't miss. Chris England, the play-wright, was worried how the player might react, down there in the stalls, watching what might have been. England recalls watching him, nervous about the pain he was about to re-inject and remembers that when the moment came, and the dream penalty went in on stage, Pearce leapt to his feet, yelled "Yessss!" and brought the house down.

On Saturday, Pearce brought the house down again. "I think you could call Stuart the bravest man on the planet to take that penalty after what happened before," said his team-mate Paul Ince, his recollection caused by the euphoria of triumph of the memory that the two of them had once clashed in a Premiership match over alleged racist taunts. Pearce himself said he had no doubts. He needed to take a penalty in a shoot-out, he said he'd wanted to from the day he'd missed. His face, a rictus of square-jawed pride and relief, suggested what a release it was. And rightly so. On Sunday he went to Wembley Park to introduce his favourite group, The Sex Pistols, up on stage: the tumultuous greeting he received made it clear the nation (or at least his crasser representatives) had forgiven him for Turin.

In a way Pearce is lucky to have been able to exorcise his penalty ghost. Had Graeme Le Saux not broken a leg, had Terry Venables done what most critics implored and replaced him after two poor early performances in the tournament with Phil Neville, Alex Ferguson's Maldini-in-the-making, Pearce wouldn't even have been on the pitch at Wembley. But if it was lucky for Pearce for his team-mates and the ever-growing England following. After he scored, he turned to the crowd and bellowed "come on." This was not an instruction to applaud him, but to get behind the team, to lift them to even greater heights, to take collective responsibility. With that goal Pearce suggested to us all that it was now possible. That if everyone followed him and displayed his guts and attitude it will be enough to defeat even a team as skilful, committed and determined as the Germans.

At that moment Stuart Pearce proved his worth. He might not be able to pass as well as Neville, he might not be able to read the game like Maldini, he might not be capable of as devastating an overlap as Sergi, but when it comes to lifting a nation's heart, he has no equal. We should have trusted Bestie all along: he of all people should be capable of recognising a great full-back.



penalty than its execution. Gascogne, Platt and Shearer all took theirs with equal precision and purpose; all of them stood four-square when volunteers were called for; all of them would have been aware of the consequences of missing as they stepped up to address the ball. None of them, however, had, on 4 July 1990, in the Stadio delle Alpi in Turin, missed a penalty in the shoot-out of the World Cup semi-final. None of them had experienced what Pete Davies memorably described in *All Played Out* as "the black pit of loss opened wide."

For six years he couldn't escape it: everywhere he went people reminded him of it, he watched videos of the shoot-out time and again at home. When the play *An Evening With Gary Lineker* opened in the West End, Pearce, along with a number of other England players, was invited along. The play centres on that night in Turin and includes

forted about it, not at the time or later. This man you would want beside you in the trenches, this man who reckons that the best Christmas present he has ever received was the flag-pole and Union Jack his wife once gave him, felt he had let his country down.

euro-spy

EDITED BY RUPERT METCALF

The master of the shoot-out



MAN ON THE SPOT Bernard Lama (France)

If extra time fails to resolve proceedings at Old Trafford today, France can rest assured that they will have the calmest man on the pitch. Few players view penalty shoot-outs quite like Bernard Lama, whose save from Clarence Seedorf opened the way for Aimé Jacquet's team to beat the Dutch and earn today's semi-final against the Czech Republic.

"I love the challenge," Lama told the French sports daily *L'Equipe* after Saturday's quarter-final. "It's a moment when you have to be strong and sure of yourself. It's one of the rare occasions when a goalkeeper can save his team. In my whole career, and even as a boy, I've never lost a penalty shoot-out."

Lama's brilliant reflex saves but sometimes eccentric goalkeeping (his kicking can be erratic, to say the least) have prompted comparisons

with Bruce Grobbelaar, whose eccentric antics during another famous shoot-out helped Liverpool win the 1984 European Cup final in Rome.

Not that Lama ever tries to intimidate the opposition. "I don't say a word and I don't try to catch the eye of the penalty takers," he said,

"That doesn't achieve anything at this level. The penalty-takers are all strong-willed guys. I prefer just to concentrate on the ball. The ball is the only thing that counts. You need to see what direction it's going and move at the very last moment."

Nor does Lama's contribution end there. At Anfield he gave words of advice and encouragement to France's five penalty takers before each kick. Lama has even been known to take penalties himself, although he has yet to do so for his country.

The 33-year-old Lama only became a regular choice at the age of 30. A pillar of French football for the last 10 years, he is proof that success can come to those who wait. Last month he helped Paris St-Germain win the European Cup-Winners Cup; now a greater prize beckons.

Paul Newman

EURO 96 RIP-OFFS

No 15: Buses from Leeds city centre to Eland Road last week were charging £1.50 for the short trip — almost three times the normal fare. Have you come across any monster rip-offs? If so, fax details to Euro-spy on 0171 293 2894.

Sleepy Russian caught in bed

The Russian defence often gave the impression of being in a state of collective slumber during their Group C matches against Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic. As they left for home last week, however, one member of their squad really was caught out — he overslept at the team hotel and was left behind as the Russians set off.

He was found in bed at the Warrington Hotel and Country Club, near Wigan, by a chambermaid 20 minutes after the party had left for the airport. The embarrassed player was then bundled into a car and was rushed off to join his team-mates, who had not even noticed that he was missing.

The hotel refused to reveal his name, but its manager, David Calderbank, said: "He made the plane home although I think he had a bad head. The squad had been under strict orders during the tournament and were not allowed to have much fun, but on their last night they went to a night-club in Wigan and they obviously had a good time."

"This chap was fast asleep when the chambermaid went to his room. She ran down to me and, although he could speak no English, when I showed him my watch he just leapt from the bed. I rang the team coach to tell them they'd left one behind and they hadn't even noticed..."

FOOTBALL: THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

"Stuart Pearce ist eine bluse für ein grosses mädchen," which is German for "Stuart Pearce is a big girl's blouse."

WHO'S WHO IN TONIGHT'S LINE-UP

ENGLAND (probable)

<p>19 Phil Neville (23, 24, 25) CB, 25, 26</p> <p>Began the season at Old Trafford with Manchester United's youth team under Calum Sturges. Came a year for the reds, kept other players out of the FA Cup final — might be in the wings on Sunday.</p>	<p>17 Steve McManis (23, 24, 25) CB, 25, 26</p> <p>Has never over his head during his career. He was the first England player to score a goal in a World Cup final, but he was also the first to miss a penalty in a shoot-out. He is a proven goalscorer, but he has never scored in a World Cup final.</p>	<p>15 Paul Scholes (23, 24, 25) CB, 25, 26</p> <p>Has never over his head during his career. He was the first England player to score a goal in a World Cup final, but he was also the first to miss a penalty in a shoot-out. He is a proven goalscorer, but he has never scored in a World Cup final.</p>	<p>11 Darren Anderton (23, 24, 25) CB, 25, 26</p> <p>Has never over his head during his career. He was the first England player to score a goal in a World Cup final, but he was also the first to miss a penalty in a shoot-out. He is a proven goalscorer, but he has never scored in a World Cup final.</p>
<p>13 Stuart Pearce (23, 24, 25) CB, 25, 26</p> <p>Has never over his head during his career. He was the first England player to score a goal in a World Cup final, but he was also the first to miss a penalty in a shoot-out. He is a proven goalscorer, but he has never scored in a World Cup final.</p>	<p>11 Stuart Pearce (23, 24, 25) CB, 25, 26</p> <p>Has never over his head during his career. He was the first England player to score a goal in a World Cup final, but he was also the first to miss a penalty in a shoot-out. He is a proven goalscorer, but he has never scored in a World Cup final.</p>	<p>11 Stuart Pearce (23, 24, 25) CB, 25, 26</p> <p>Has never over his head during his career. He was the first England player to score a goal in a World Cup final, but he was also the first to miss a penalty in a shoot-out. He is a proven goalscorer, but he has never scored in a World Cup final.</p>	<p>11 Stuart Pearce (23, 24, 25) CB, 25, 26</p> <p>Has never over his head during his career. He was the first England player to score a goal in a World Cup final, but he was also the first to miss a penalty in a shoot-out. He is a proven goalscorer, but he has never scored in a World Cup final.</p>

GERMANY (probable)

AT WEMBLEY STADIUM, KICK OFF 7.30pm TONIGHT

صباحنا من الامل

wimbledon 5

Graf dominates after rusty start

GUY HODGSON

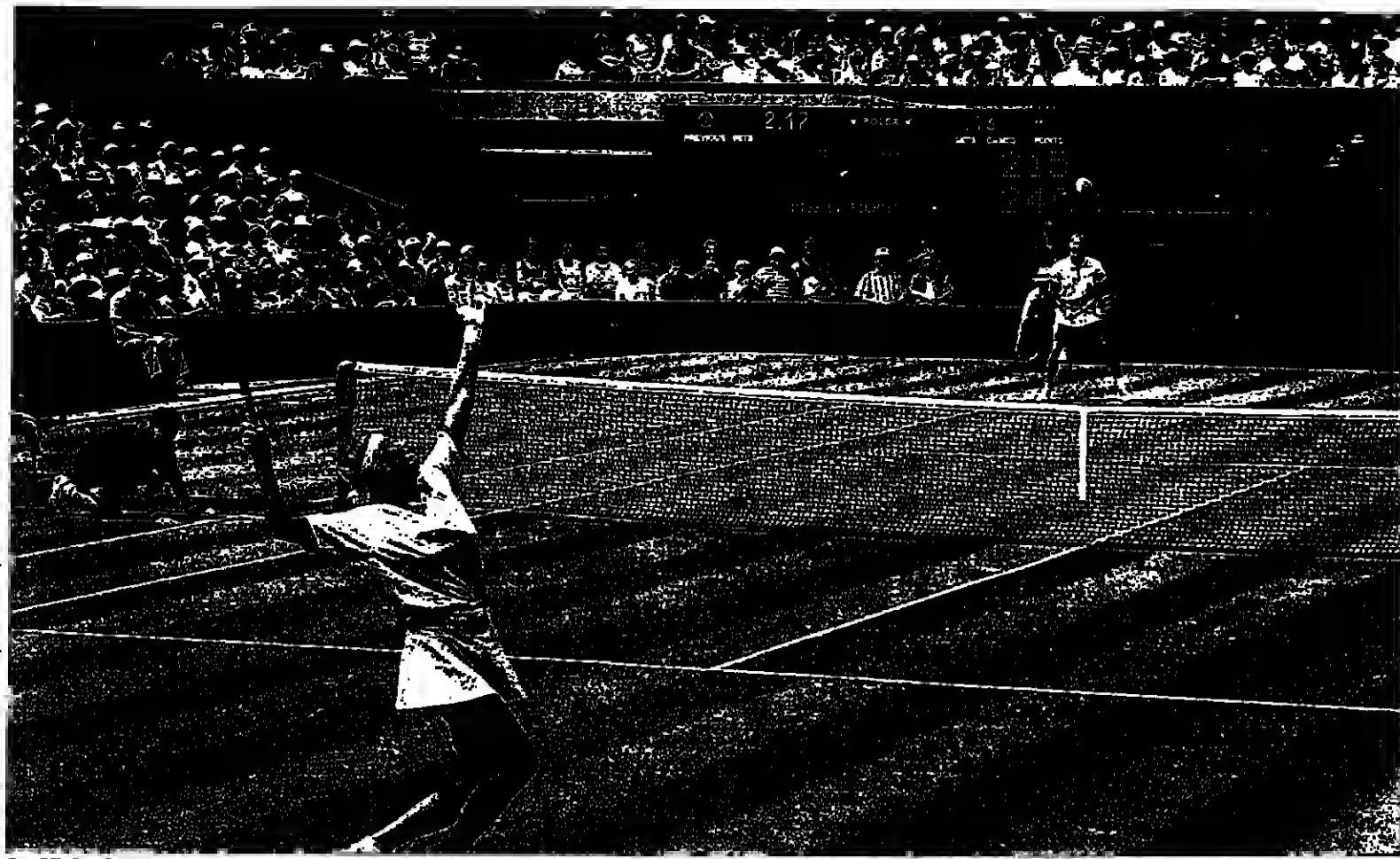
Maybe Ludmila Richterova's confidence is resilient enough to withstand a battering, but just in case the Czech thought she had a slight chance of winning on Centre Court yesterday, she should have peered at the Wimbledon programme. "Thinly disguised as cannon fodder" is not the description you would want to show to a prospective sponsor.

Then again there are a lot of women for whom that cap fits when they are facing Richterova's opponent. Shocks happen to Steffi Graf, but they normally come in the shape of static electricity when the cleaner's ill and she dusts the television. Two years ago the six-time champion was defeated in the first round by the next surprise on the lawn of the All England Club is due after the millennium.

It certainly looked unlikely to arrive any earlier yesterday. Graf played poorly, but barely practised and was running gingerly, half expecting her left knee to send a shooting pain up her leg. Among the men, if the world's No 75 found the top seed in such a wretched condition, then he would be confident of making ripples, but this is the distasteful, and therefore upstart, side of the game. Richterova did not have a hope.

Outside a select company of about a dozen opponents, Graf, with an injured knee, is about as vulnerable as a tank with a dodgy windscreen wiper and once the German had got the rest-induced rustiness out of her limbs she mowed Richterova down, 6-4, 6-1 in the space of 53 minutes. Cannon fodder seemed like a generous description by the end.

Graf had not spared her opponent's reputation on the



Steffi Graf, the champion, serves to Ludmila Richterova in their first-round match yesterday. Graf won 6-4, 6-1.

Photograph: David Ashdown

court and she hardly reined back afterwards. Someone pointed out her backhand return was less than lethal, to which she said her other wing was not exactly flying either. "Backhand and forehand," she replied. "I didn't have any preference. Either way was difficult." If someone had just taken eight games of the last nine, you hope she says she is playing well.

More taxing in these Euro 96-

inspired xenophobic times was the inevitable question about England's football semi-final against Germany. "I heard that you keep on asking that to everyone who comes in here," she said with a smile. "Her prediction? 'Not in this room.'"

Talking to German journalists she was less circumspect, however, saying that she regarded her team's chances as "quite good". An answer to the

tabloids' "Let's blitz Fritz" theme, it was not.

The blitzing among the women yesterday, like it had been on Monday, was being done by the seeds. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Anke Huber, Brenda Schultz-McCarthy and Lindsey Davenport went through in straight sets while Mary Joe Fernandez beat Jana Kandarr, 6-0, 6-0. With Britain's No 1 Clare Wood squandering

three match points before losing, 2-6, 7-5, 6-4 to Germany's Claudia Porwik, there seemed to be a predictability to it all. Which makes the antics of people like the eccentric American, Murphy Jensen, even more interesting when he is held up in contrast. Last year he jilted Schultz-McCarthy on the mixed doubles court and went missing for 24 hours, an absence that was never properly explained until

yesterday. "He was all ready to go," Schultz-McCarthy said, "and he forgot his shorts, got stuck in the traffic and was 15 minutes late. It could happen to all of us." She paused. "But not all of us would go fishing. That was the problem."

The American brothers, Luke and Murphy Jensen, wanted to wear England football shirts for their doubles match today but were refused.

Court circular Grossman fails to break \$1m

Ann Grossman's quick-fire defeat by Monica Seles in the first round thwarted the chances of the Ohio-born right-hander joining the million dollar club.

Grossman, in her first Centre Court appearance, lost 6-2, 6-2 to Seles and only earned \$6,800 (£4,250) as a first-round loser. This now leaves Grossman, who has yet to win a title on the WTA Tour - with earnings at \$950,000, although the figure is not bad for someone ranked 66th in the world.

Aged 25, Grossman has already overtaken the career earnings of one of Britain's best, Sue Barker, now a BBC TV commentator, who has earned \$878,701 in her tennis life.

As you would expect, the queen of tennis, Martina Navratilova, the former world No 1, is the leading money-earner in the women's game with an incredible \$20,337,902.

This year's favourite, Steffi Graf, is, however, catching her fast and will crash through the \$18.5m barrier if she lifts her fifth title in six years.

Graf, ironically, will go from Wimbledon to the Atlanta Olympics, where she will earn a penny if she triumphs. "The gold medal meant as much to me as any Grand Slam title," she said after the Seoul Olympics eight years ago.

As the temperatures soared into the mid-70s at Wimbledon, the bookmakers believe it is getting more likely that there will not be a drop of rain during the Championships' fortnight. William Hill were forced to shorten the odds of no rain falling at Wimbledon in 1996 from 8-1 to 4-1 after a "flood" of bets. "There's only been one day lost to rain in three years, so the odds are coming down all the time," said William Hill's Graham Sharpe.



Signing on: Steffi Graf, the defending champion, makes her mark for her fans yesterday. Photograph: PA

Gaudenzi loses his cool

Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi took just a few hours to record the first fine at Wimbledon as he advanced to the second round for the first time yesterday.

Gaudenzi, the Italian No 1, was fined £1,000 by the tournament referee, Alan Mills, after his five-set victory over the American Michael Joyce.

The umpire in the match, Andreas Egli, reported that Gaudenzi swore when he passed under the chair because he thought he heard a let.

"Not addressing anybody, not looking at anybody," he said. "That was bloody useless, go and fuck yourself." Egli said in the report. Mills added that the fine is being deducted by the tournament from the player's prize-money and his being forwarded to the Grand Slam Development Fund.

The incident may well have inspired Gaudenzi because after it he managed to lose just four more games, picking up two sets and taking the match. The player now has 10 days from the last day of the tournament or until 15 July 1996 within which to file a written appeal of the fine.

Hingis keeps on the straight and narrow

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Martina Hingis is approaching the big fork in the road. One option will take the 15-year-old to the promised land of tennis celebrity, the route charted from teenager to successful adult by Steffi Graf. The other offers a less scenic pathway, a road that is bordered by the premature retirement home in which Tracy Austin and Andrea Jaeger inhabit the dormitory and one from which

Jennifer Capriati seems to have crashed. On yesterday's evidence, Hingis seems to have got her bearings right.

It is not easy to grow up in tennis, but the girl from Switzerland seems to have a better chance than most. Her mother, Melanie, a former player, and her coach are in the same bed every night (they are one and the same person), and she understands the pressure of the circuit.

Hingis seems to possess the temperamental equipment. As she eased to a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Jana Nedelko, the most extreme in behaviour we witnessed was rufous looks and the occasional gentle bounce of racket head on turf. There are signs of youth on Hingis's fore-

head but little in her game. She was too consistent for her opponent yesterday and ended the match on an experimental level, coming to the net with much greater frequency. That facility, plus an improvement on her first serve, will be required if she is to beat the person she is scheduled to meet in the fourth round, on Steffi Graf.

Hingis has already beaten Graf this year, however, in the Italian Open, where the German's thoughts seemed to be on courts other than the ones she has made her name on. Subsequent events have shown, though, that the No 1's mind is no longer locked away with her father in a single cell of the prison at Mannheim.

Team Hingis always has the Capriati example to keep them on their toes. There are those who fear the American's career is over at the age of 20 as she appears to be putting more effort into her encounters with Florida night-club waitresses than anyone she meets on a tennis court.

Capriati was brought before us amid publicity fireworks as the new Chris Evert, and Hingis also carries with her the onerous link with a great from yesterday, as her first name might suggest. There was a wobble at the Lipton championship earlier this year when Hingis said she was getting bored with practising. She subsequently started to play more doubles to

keep her mind occupied, a sort of junior basket weaving exercise.

The Hingis people understand that adolescent giddiness is an unworkable genie and are prepared to give the young girl some rein. Her mother gave Martina the opportunity to go back to school recently, but the teenager decided hers was not such a bad life after all.

The all-British encounter between Rachel Viollot and Megan Miller transpired to be a battle of the wild cards with white caps. We say British even though both women have spent much of their lives in Florida, which led to the suspiciously Transatlantic accents on Court 10 yesterday. Both have world

rankings that represent a pretty useful first innings.

Viollot is the daughter of Dennis, the former Manchester United striker (well, inside-forward in his day actually). She collects freckles, which she keeps on her face, and has developed a serving action with which Jo Durie ended her career. Miller grunts like Seles, plays double-handlers like her and even seems to have gone to the trouble of having plastic surgery in the image of the No 2 seed. Sadly, that is where the resemblance ends and she allowed her opponent to collect a fluctuating match, 6-2, 2-6, 6-1.

Viollot now meets Hingis in the second round. After that, Hingis will play someone else.

Agassi's second exit

Andre Agassi made another quick exit in London yesterday morning, this time from Heathrow airport.

Agassi, beaten in the first round of Wimbledon on Monday by the unheralded American Doug Flach, arrived at the airport by car. He sat in the back seat with a baseball cap pulled low over his eyes as an aide checked his bags, and then refused to sign autographs as he walked to his Los Angeles-bound flight.

Agassi also declined to talk to reporters at the airport, leaving his coach, Brad Gilbert, to explain the American's latest lacklustre performance.

"It's a little bit disappointing, but what can you do," said Gilbert, who remained at Wimbledon to work with his other illustrious charge, Mary Pierce. "He's in a little bit of a slump right now, but there'll be another day. There's always another day."

THE SEEDS' PROGRESS

MEN'S SINGLES				WOMEN'S SINGLES			
1 P SAMPRAS Next opponent R2 Philadelphus	Holder: Steffi Graf (United States)	2 E GOLF Next opponent R2 Boudouze	Holder: Steffi Graf (Germany)	1 P SAMPRAS Next opponent R2 Philadelphus	2 E GOLF Next opponent R2 Boudouze	3 C MARTINEZ Next opponent R2 Raymond	4 A SAMIRZ Next opponent R2 Orenas
2 B BECKER Next opponent R2 Caporal	3 A ANAND Next opponent R2 Boudouze	4 G WILSON Next opponent R2 Boudouze	5 M SELES Next opponent R2 Raymond	6 J HENRI Next opponent R2 Raymond	7 C MARTINEZ Next opponent R2 Raymond	8 A SAMIRZ Next opponent R2 Orenas	9 J HENRI Next opponent R2 Raymond
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TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY

12.0 start on Centre Court and Court One. 12.0 on other courts where noted.

COURT ONE: A Gaudenzi (I) v M Fernandez (A); K. Schumacher (S) v M Seles (U); T. Hendrickson (U) v D. Boudouze (G).

COURT TWO: J. Hingis (S) v J. Nedelko (A); A. Gaudenzi (I) v M Fernandez (A); C. Martinez (S) v M Seles (U); T. Hendrickson (U) v D. Boudouze (G).

COURT THREE: R. Viollot (F) v M. Hingis (S); S. Schultz-McCarthy (W) v J. Hingis (S); A. Gaudenzi (I) v M Fernandez (A); C. Martinez (S) v M Seles (U); T. Hendrickson (U) v D. Boudouze (G).

COURT FOUR: G. Flach (U) v A. Gaudenzi (I); T. A. Woodbridge (A) v M. Seles (U); P. Sampras (U) v M. Seles (U); D. Boudouze (G) v M. Seles (U); T. Hendrickson (U) v D. Boudouze (G).

COURT FIVE: J. Hingis (S) v J. Nedelko (A); A. Gaudenzi (I) v M Fernandez (A); C. Martinez (S) v M Seles (U); T. Hendrickson (U) v D. Boudouze (G).

COURT SIX: J. Hingis (S) v J. Nedelko (A); A. Gaudenzi (I) v M Fernandez (A); C. Martinez (S) v M Seles (U); T. Hendrickson (U) v D. Boudouze (G).

COURT SEVEN: J. Hingis (S) v J. Nedelko (A); A. Gaudenzi (I) v M Fernandez (A); C. Martinez (S) v M Seles (U); T. Hendrickson (U) v D. Boudouze (G).

COURT EIGHT: J. Hingis (S) v J. Nedelko (A); A. Gaudenzi (I) v M Fernandez (A); C. Martinez (S) v M Seles (U); T. Hendrickson (U) v D. Boudouze (G).

COURT NINE: J. Hingis (S) v J. Nedelko (A); A. Gaudenzi (I) v M Fernandez (A); C. Martinez (S) v M Seles (U); T. Hendrickson (U) v D. Boudouze (G).

COURT TEN: J. Hingis (S) v J. Nedelko (A); A. Gaudenzi (I) v M Fernandez (A); C. Martinez (S) v M Seles (U); T. Hendrickson (U) v D. Boudouze (G).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm lacking match play. You could see that a little today. That's why it took me a little while to get into the match" Steffi Graf, after her first-round win

STATISTICS OF THE DAY

182 - number of ball boys and girls at Wimbledon.
235 - number of security guards at Wimbledon.
31,200 - number of tennis balls used during Wimbledon.
360 - number of umpires and line judges at Wimbledon.

TODAY'S WEATHER

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Allure of the timeless Test

BEING THERE

Picnics, Pimm's, grass and cricket. The Lord's Test is a uniquely British summer occasion. Nick Coleman tucked into it

There is a small ellipse of rich green grass behind the Warner Stand at Lord's. It is about the size of a tennis court and is girdled by a low wall. A path bisects the lawn allowing foot-traffic to approach a tastefully appointed stand at which Pimm's is served by the jug. At 10.25am on a Test match Sunday the green is alive with activity.

Vigorously, yet decorously, members stake out their patch, unfolding, clipping, stacking, spreading, entrenching their picnic gear - their rugs, their hampers, their portable tables - until the green is a quilt of tiny fields, each one moated with nine inches of grass, rising at each centre to a mighty castellated of the latest in ice-box technology. Having established themselves, the members then go away and watch the cricket. By 11.02am the green is empty of people. Only the ice-boxes and hampers remain, monumental on their rugs. There is an atmosphere of sumptuous desolation. It is as if some boffin has invented a neutron bomb which, on detonation, vaporises MCC members yet leaves their picnic equipment standing.

The cricket on Sunday was not exciting. It was a day of drift and counter-drift, in which the initiative was offered but declined by both sides for fear of disturbing the nervous equilibrium established over a Test match and a half of fretful stiring. The image that filled the mind was of two underweight sumo wrestlers lacking the strength to lump one another out of the ring, instead tacitly agreeing to mooch about in the middle and clash bellies for formality's sake. Thereul David's approaching century, for one, Alec Stewart's approaching superannuation, for another - but by and large torpor reigned. In the stands the usual things were going on: people lining up snacks for the first session, testing the rigidity of the seat-backs in front, settling under their hats.

Lord's is beautiful on days like



Test of time: MCC members enjoy their privileged view of the Test on Saturday from in front of the Long Room in the pavilion at Lord's

Photograph: Peter Jay

these when the sun plays peekaboo from eleven until the close, dividing the ground into dissolving sections of light and shadow. It is possible on these days to stare without blinking for minutes at a time and see everything happening at once in synchronous fragments. I like to sit near the top of the roofless Edrich Stand, out of the breeze but high enough to include within a single field of vi-

Lord's is Victorian democracy realised in bricks, mortar and the abstract principle of enclosure

sion the action in the middle and all the peripheral stuff, which is essential if you want to do Lord's properly. The peripheral stuff at Lord's is always central stuff. The tone, the order, the meaning of the place is governed by its architecture and the way it disposes of space, which is another way of saying that wherever you are at Lord's you get the feeling that you are being watched.

To the left of the Edrich the high modernist-colonial rigging of the new

Mound Stand rises like sculpture above the boxes of the corporately sponsored. Ahead range the Members' Stand, the Pavilion, the press box, the Warner. To the right, you follow the declining curve of the Edrich's twin, the Compton, which rakes down to the four-square emulsioned Grandstand and its all-seeing eye, Father Time, who can, on good days, look benign.

It is a pie chart, Lord's is a diagram of a vision of society expressing not a single indivisible whole but a construction of discreet but interlocking parts, each of which stands as an essential constituent in the self-regard of the others. Some parts you are entitled to enter, others not. At all times you're aware of your place, and of being patronised. Lord's is Victorian democracy realised in bricks, mortar and the abstract principle of enclosure.

I have a feeling I like the top tier of the Edrich Stand because it appears to be neutral in this respect. It is featureless. It has no emblematic status. Underneath, on the lower tier, is the place for getting pissed and shouting. Above and to the left, separated by an eight-foot void and a couple of sets of railing, are the enclosures of those privileged by money, who get drunk and chit-chat. Opposite, across the grass, up the slope, behind a picket fence in the lap of their giant red pavilion, sit the men in orange and yellow ties, the

proprietors. They seem to be miles away in several senses, immobilised certainly by distance, possibly by fatigue, disappointment and pink gin. They were all fighter pilots and submarine commanders once. And when they do move, they walk slowly around their cloisters in twos and threes under panama hats looking pained, their eyes travelling ahead reluctantly, freighted with dread.

"Accountable," gloomed one, without looking at his partner as they passed slowly through the Mound Stand ambulatory, mid-morning. "Someone must be accountable." His partner made a dark sound in his throat but did not reply.

So I like it up there on the Edrich top tier because in my mind it sets me above snobbery (which is, let's face it, in itself an act of snobbery by internal memo rather than by exhibition). Here, you can participate without actually participating. You can watch dads and their sons doing their stuff.

For instance: a middle-class son is restrained by his father from leaping up in the middle of an over to visit the gents. "You know why, don't you?" dad says reprovingly. He is kitted out in the warm-weather togs favoured by middle-aged Englishmen in the pomp of fatherhood: his khaki shorts, socks, sandals, pink polo shirt, a sucked-looking floppy cricket hat - baby clothes in all but size and context. His son wears a base-

ball cap and a frown. "Yeah. Sorry." In the row behind, another tussle. The voices are public school, one ex. one current; one past its youth, the other full of it.

"So..." It is the younger voice, filling a pause that has endured since the last pass of the vacuum flask. "So, what were your moments of personal cricketing glory?"

There is a good 10 seconds of silence during which it is impossible not to think of an empty bucket plummeting down the shaft of a deep, dry well.

"Oh, I don't know, really," replies Older Voice, evasively. "There must have been some?" "Well..." Older Voice sighs. "Well, I did most of my cricketing for my house at school. Didn't play very often. Hardly at all in fact. I don't think I was a key member of the team."

"Well, I haven't scored a century yet..."

A West Indian gent, carrying his MCC's steward's moss green jacket and a bag, settles himself in the seat in front. It is 12.30: half an hour to lunch. He unpacks a huge baguette and begins to work his way through it as Peter Martin chatters in from the Nursery End to Srinath. The steward's cars go up and down as he

nearest neighbour, which is me. "Y'know, I like the look of that boy. D'you mind if I smoke?" He is a charming man. He works the lift to the private boxes in the Mound Stand. This year he has had Mick Jagger and J Paul Getty in. He drinks from two bottles, one containing colourless fluid, the other something pink as geraniums. He tells me an innocuous anecdote about one of his regular customers in the lift, which I would like to recount but dare not for fear that Lord's would visit itself terribly upon its steward. Lord's is a genteel place but one fairly seething with oedipal rage.

It is one o'clock. The players troop off and spectators swarm down staircases, over concourses, into action. In the Compton Bar a weary man pours UHT milk into the black plastic dustbin provided and drops the empty plastic UHT container into his cup of coffee. He cusses mildly, shakes his head and walks back out into the sunlight. Meanwhile, behind the Warner Stand the grassy picnic area is alive again. It is taking on the look of a garden party. Glasses chink and people hitch their legs up underneath their bodies to ride sidesaddle into lunch. And all the ice boxes are exactly where their owners left them, because at Lord's they are safe. Safer here by far than in their own homes.

SPORTING VERNACULAR

No 3 SEEDS

"And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no roof, they withered away". Andre Agassi could do worse than meditate on the parable of the sower as he leaves Wimbledon, verily a seed that fell on stony ground - in his case Court Number Two, a patch of soil that has proved notably infertile for other seeds before him.

The Oxford English Dictionary's earliest citation for "seed" as a sporting verb comes from an American article published in 1896 (the noun follows later), but it seems likely that this is a relatively recent inclusion because as late as 1924 the Times felt it necessary to explain to its readers exactly what the term meant - and the writer sniftily advances the fact that the usage is not in the OED as evidence of "how little seeding accords with British notions". There is no explicit etymology for the phrase but the image is presumably straightforward - every seed packet carries detailed instructions about the optimum distance to be left between seeds to ensure the best re-

sults and the graphic representation of a tournament's early rounds even looks a little like the furrows of a ploughed field. Though "seed-ing" also has a chemical meaning - when you "seed" a solution you introduce small particles to start off a process of crystallisation - this seems far less likely as an origin than its horticultural sense. For the Times, the idea that you would carefully plant your best prospects into a competition, spacing them out to ensure plenty of room to grow, was clearly not quite fair play. For the Americans, it was simply common sense - elementary husbandry which ensured an even and abundant harvest of vigorous late rounds. There are no guarantees, though, whether you're growing corn or exciting tennis games.

From time to time the weeds defeat the seeds, or, as St Matthew, a famous correspondent before his time, put it: "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them."

Tom Sutcliffe

Belle of the ball given the lenient treatment

Viewed from the United States, football's yellow card rules appear brutally unforgiving. If you were to apply to Gary Neville the sanctions standards of American baseball, there is no way the two cautions he incurred in the earlier rounds of Euro 96 would have ruled him out of today's semi-final against Germany.

At worst, a baseball player found guilty of shoving or tripping an opponent might be told by the management of his team that it might be a good idea to undergo a course in sensitivity training. But even that is to exaggerate. In analogous circumstances Neville's crimes, not to mention those of the poor beleaguered Czech Republic team, would not have merited a raised eyebrow. Short of a baseball player shooting an opponent, punishments for bad behaviour are fabulously lenient.

Take that staple of baseball fun, "the bench-clearing brawl". Typically, the pitcher hurls his ball a little too close to the batter's head. Whereupon the batter drops his bat and runs with menacing intent towards the pitcher. The pitcher's on-field team-mates charge to his defence,

whereupon the batter's team-mates leap off their benches and a buff-bang melee of cartoon proportions ensues.

The response of Major League Baseball will then turn on whether the pitcher ought to be suspended for one game (the baseball season runs to 162 games), or whether he should be let off with a gentle reprimand. None of the other players' behaviour will receive even passing mention.

This is what happens when a baseball player does something that in British sports would be considered really bad, say the equivalent of the Cantona incident. Albert Belle, the Cleveland Indians' star batter, got upset with a press photographer in the course of a game on 6 April this year. Whereupon he started hurling baseballs at the photographer's head, the consequences of which could have been severe brain damage.

Gene Budig, the president of the American League, judged it would be a little severe to fine or suspend Belle, who even by local standards has a record of indiscipline. So Budig ordered instead that Belle should seek counselling. Last week Belle struck again, knocking a Milwaukee Brew-

SPORT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY

John Carlin unravels the American way of disciplining errant baseball players

ers fielder to the ground with a stiff forearm to the face. The umpires did nothing but Budig, who watched the game on TV, decided it was time to make an example of Belle. So he suspended Belle for five games.

Belle sought help from the players' union, who suggested he see a lawyer. Belle did, and then threatened to sue Major League Baseball. Whereupon Budig promptly backed down. Belle's suspension was reduced from five games to three. Upon further appeal it was reduced

on Monday to two. "Albert Belle is not a bad person," Budig said.

On the other hand, the owner of the Cleveland Indians is a bad person - or has been deemed to be, at any rate, by the baseball authorities. Marge Schott is bad, not because she attempts to cause people physical pain, but because she has a habit of saying stupid, ignorant things.

A couple of weeks ago the owners of all the other clubs met and decided she should be suspended from her day-to-day management duties at the Indians for a period of two and a half years. Her crime was to have said the following about Hitler in a cable TV interview: "Everything you read, when he came in he was good. They built tremendous highways and got all the factories going. He went nuts, he went berserk... Everybody knows he was good at the beginning, but he just went too far."

America's thought police went bonkers. Newspaper columnists, editorial writers, TV pundits joined the Anti-Defamation League and other Jewish support groups in a chorus of indignation and rage. Schott, who is 67, did not do her cause a great deal

of good when she explained to Sports Illustrated she had not wanted to talk about that stuff. It had just come up because the cable TV interviewer had asked her why she kept a swastika armband in her home.

As Major League Baseball dithered, more and more articles appeared in the press showing that a couple of years back she had been ordered to take sensitivity training therapy after describing some of her black baseball players as "million dollar niggers" and once during a newspaper interview she had mimicked the English-speaking accent of the Japanese prime minister, saying "Cadillac" for Cadillac. It turned out, too, that she had told the New York Times in an interview in 1992 the same thing about Hitler having been an OK guy at first.

So the public pressure piled up and eventually Major League Baseball, facing the appalling prospect of being labelled politically incorrect, were left with no option but to slap the two-and-a-half year suspension on the confused and foolish woman. Belle, who might have killed someone, will be back at work this weekend.

Jones broadens the horizons

An uncompromising Australian is inspiring England's least fashionable club. He spoke to Adam Szreter

Dean Jones had just made centuries on successive days for Derbyshire; the first helped them to a resounding 363-run victory over Middlesex in the Championship, the second was not quite enough to prevent defeat in the Sunday League. He might have been reasonably pleased with his form.

"I'm not worried about those type of performances," he said. "I'm just worried about getting results for Derbyshire, improving what we did last year and giving the club some future, some direction, and seeing where it wants to go."

For someone who made 11 centuries in 52 Tests for Australia, and averages over 50 in first-class cricket and 46.55 for his country, a couple of hundreds at Derby probably are fairly small beer, on reflection.

Jones's dedication to his new post started somewhat prematurely, you might say. His wife was expecting their second child when he was about to leave for England in the spring. "Jane said, 'You're not going until you've seen this baby'. So I said, 'well you better get it induced because I've got to go'."

Baby Isabella was induced and dad was on a plane within the hour.

Although his wife may not have appreciated it too much, you feel that Derbyshire are about to benefit from Jones's uncompromising personality. They have struggled to fulfil their potential in recent seasons, despite a regular battery of top-class bowlers, but now they are third in the Championship and have a number of young players who are catching the eye.

Jones, however, is not satisfied yet. "It's been good and bad," he said of his first two months in charge. "We're getting there, slowly but surely. I've inherited a squad and there's no doubt there'll be changes made to it before next year. I can't say which areas at the moment - that would be a bit silly of me, wouldn't it? But we are looking at a few guys and decisions will be made in the next month."

Of the younger players at the club, Jones is in no doubt that they are generally behind their Australian counterparts in terms of their overall development. "At home, you get picked for Australia at 20 or 21 if you're any good. Here you're just playing the first game for your county."

"County cricket is a full-time professional job and therefore guys stay on longer, earning good money, and positions vacant are not readily available. At home, the turnover is better. We're not frightened of



Focal point: Dean Jones makes a point to his players before they wrapped up their third successive Championship win on Monday

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

picking young guys. If they show potential, we just whack 'em straight in."

Despite his nationality, as a county captain Jones is clear about his duty to the England team. "I can't play Corky in the NatWest. He's just bowled 42 overs for England and I've got to make sure he does well for his country. That's my job. The club wants him to play well here, sure, but for his career, his life, it matters what he does for England. He wants to play against Staffordshire, which is the little minor county he's from, but I'll rest him."

Even without Cork, Derbyshire are not short of big names. One, Devon Malcolm, is being nursed back to form after South Africa. "We had to pick the pieces up from Dev, who was in bits after South Africa, but we've put him back together and he's a pretty useful bowler again."

"I think that what was done to him in South Africa was ridiculous. Dev

can still play for England, without doubt. I've just got to keep him relaxed. He's a lovely bloke, very dry sense of humour, and I've just got to make sure he keeps running in fast and runs straight through the crease, instead of peeling off too quickly."

"Changing a guy's action at the age of 32 or 33, as one particular England fast-bowling coach advised, was bloody stupid. Absolutely ridiculous. I think they're trying to do things to justify their jobs."

Despite the Malcolm affair, Jones believes England are at long last heading in the right direction. "They've got some good selectors; they're starting to pick the right blokes, they're ringing captains up and speaking to players. A player might have got a hundred, but he might also have been dropped four times, so they're getting the right mail."

"Mike [Atherton] has done a good job and guys are starting to earn

their coupons, like Goughie. He's starting to take wickets and make runs at county level. England caps used to be handed out, now they're getting earned, which is good. World cricket needs England. We need them playing well. We need a really tight series next year to keep lifting up the standards of Test cricket."

As someone who spent a season with Durham under the captaincy of David Graveney, Jones has the ear of at least one England selector, and he has already had a say. "[Alan] Mullally bowled beautifully here, knocked us over and I thought, 'He's ready'. The major reason was that he swung the ball back in. But I've noticed in the last Test he's gone back to trying to bowl fast instead of shaping the ball. He's always been a fast left-arm medium, not a quick and he thinks he's a quick again."

As far as his own staff at Derbyshire are concerned, Jones can be proud of the way players such as Johnny Owen, Andy Harris and particularly Chris Adams have responded. "It's a very unfashionable county. We've only won one Championship, in '36, so we're trying to change things. If you pick up the Cricketers' Who's Who, where it says 'Least Favourite Ground', they always say Derby. So we're trying to clean the place up. The players don't like playing here because they always soup up the wickets, and they're facing Malcolm, Cork and Bishop, so I can understand there's a bit of hatred for it."

Jones is quickly becoming something of a local hero in Derby, and if you ask him about his own heroes, he does not have to think long. "Border without doubt. Toughest guy I've ever met mentally in sport. He doesn't care how he looks, he just goes out there and does the business. I've seen him facing the West Indians on wet wickets and he just takes

them on. What I like about him is that he doesn't carry a grudge, which I think is very, very important."

At 35, Jones remains one of the best batsmen in the world, but he accepts that his international career is over. "I'm finished," he says. "It's time for the young punks to come in and play. Australia doesn't need me anymore."

Jones has, however, signed to play one more season with Victoria this winter, despite losing the captaincy to Shane Warne, who he believes will be the next captain of Australia.

For the time being, he and his family are adjusting to their new life in the East Midlands. His elder daughter, Phoebe, is settling in to her school a little too well for her father's liking. "She's starting to speak English, which worries me," he says. "She's got this Pommie twang and I'm going to knock the hell out of it. You'd better believe it."

University break is bad news for Kent

THE WEEK AHEAD

Put to most cricketers, the idea of long, recuperative breaks between County Championship matches would receive a high level of support. However, a poll in the Kent dressing-room today might reveal some reservations.

Having claimed pole position in the Britannic Assurance table with their impressive defeat of Warwickshire, Kent temporarily leave the contest to entertain Oxford University. By the time they return, they may have been knocked off their perch by Yorkshire, who attempt to regain the leadership at the expense of Worcestershire, or Derbyshire, who completed a hat-trick of wins by trouncing Middlesex in the last round and have a chance to extend the sequence against bottom-of-the-table Northamptonshire, starting tomorrow.

Derbyshire are thriving under the Australian influence of their captain, Dean Jones, and their coach, Les Stillman, who have so far delivered their promise of a well-schooled, well-motivated team. Jones will be relieved to have Dominic Cork available at Northampton, still without a Championship success this season and well beaten by Hampshire last time out.

Warwickshire travel to Lord's under orders to go easy on Shaun Pollock. The demands being made of the 22-year-old South African caused Dr Alf Bacher to place an anxious telephone call to Edgbaston last week, reminding the champions of the "gentlemen's agreement" they made over how long and how frequently the fledgling Test star should bowl.

It has created a dilemma for Warwickshire. They accept Dr Bacher's concern, but believe Pollock is still not fully attuned to English conditions and, therefore, needs to bowl. On top of that, injuries to Tim Manton and Gladstone Small have stretched their resources.

Andrew Caddick, meanwhile, is keen to bowl as many overs as possible after several marathon stints against Worcestershire last week, when he took 7 for 83 in the first innings, impressing England selector Brian Bolos. Although Somerset lost the match, Caddick and Australian all-rounder Shane Lee are in fine fettle and could cause problems for Lancashire, whose Championship results so far have been disappointing. Jon Culley

If a column is published and nobody reads it, does that mean it was never written? The correct answer is probably: so what if it does

They say if a tree falls in the forest, and no one hears it, it hasn't really made a sound. I know how that tree feels. Last Wednesday, this column was surrounded by reports of the England football team's best performance at Wembley for 30 years. Today it's surrounded by previews of the England football team's biggest game at Wembley for 30 years. If a column is published and nobody reads it, does that mean it was never really written?

The correct answer is probably: so what if it does? But it's not just cricket writers who are being swallowed up by the roar of football. It's cricket itself. On Saturday at Lord's - the Saturday of the Lord's Test - the five biggest cheers were all for penalty kicks. One of them was big enough to provoke Dickie Bird into sticking his left arm out and holding up play (a prerogative long thought to be-

long to small dark clouds). Not that I was there to see it, of course. I was at home, watching the football.

When England played Germany in 1990, I was at Wembley. Unfortunately, England and Germany were in Turin. For some reason - a shrewd assessment of England's chances of beating Belgium, no doubt - I had agreed to review the Rolling Stones that night, live at Wembley Stadium. Just as at Lord's, the biggest reception was football-related. Mick Jagger looked first bemused, then disgruntled. The show was stolen. It was no coincidence that the Rolling Stones' next tour was in 1993, leaving him free as a bird for the big summer of sport. Sure enough, he was spotted at Lord's on Thursday and at Wembley on Saturday.

Even for a mere spectator, to be at an overshadowed event is the

worst of both worlds. You miss out on the big event, without having the slightest hope of preserving a news blackout and enjoying the video in full innocence. And you also miss out on the one you're at, because it's impossible to get the most out of any spectacle, sporting or artistic, if your mind is elsewhere.

This Test match, as it turned out, was a good one not to be concentrating on. It was dull and largely drab, except for two sessions (Thursday evening, when Jack Russell managed to combine defiance with strokeplay, and Monday morning, when England thought about collapsing) it was a better advertisement for football than anything paid for by Nike. The match will be remembered only by fans of Dickie Bird and close friends and relatives of Russell and Sourav Ganguly.



TIM DE LISLE

The atmosphere was surreal from the moment the players formed a guard of honour for Dickie. Apparently that was Mike Atherton's idea, so it was a neat joke on the game's part that he should be given out by Dickie, a noted not-outer, three minutes later. Atherton walked off with a broad smile on his face, further evidence that the Captain Grumpy image didn't fit.

There was plenty of hard cricket played after that. The pitch had a touch of the Edgbastons and all the quicker bowlers tended to bowl short, looking for the gloves. England's two best batsmen, Russell and Graham Thorpe, both took painful blows in the part of the body that has the commentators reaching for euphemisms.

"We're nobody's soft touch," David Lloyd had said, more than once, at Edgbaston. The best example of this is Chris Lewis, who has been portrayed in the past as everybody's soft touch. Lewis's batting, usually stylish but brittle, was unrecognisable on Friday, grinding out 31 from 118 balls: hard to watch, but hard to fault. When Venkat Prasad came in at No 11, Lewis greeted him with a nasty left-hand, which rapped him on the bowling hand. While the physio did his stuff, Lewis, who always seems a gentle

character, didn't bother to go up and express his concern. The next ball was another lifter.

The Indians played hard ton, peppering Atherton with bouncers on Sunday afternoon. But the air of unreality persisted. The fifth-day crowd was only a crowd by county standards. India's over-rate was poor. England's was worse.

England's performance was summed up by Lloyd as "absolutely brilliant". Lloyd's enthusiasm is a great thing, but if allowing a demoralised and inexperienced touring team to score 429 constitutes absolute brilliance, then beating them by eight wickets in the first Test was the greatest result in England's history. The press must have misheard him. What he actually said is that England were resolutely resilient. Which they were.

This was the sort of match from which few conclusions should be drawn. One of the few is that the Indians have to be taken seriously. England's next selection meeting will not be just another mobile-phone call. Well as the 12 used so far have gelled, the selectors need to ask questions.

What is the point of playing five seam and swing bowlers? Is Ronnie Irani one of the 11 best players in the country, or is he another example of Ray Illingworth's doomed search for the new Basil D'Oliveira? And whom would the Indian batsmen rather face - the admirable Peter Martin, or a revitalised Darren Gough, armed with the variety, aggression and reverse swing that will be needed on a flat pitch like Trent Bridge?

Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to get ready for the football.

Tim de Lisle is editor of Wisden Cricket Monthly

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NATWEST TROPHY FIRST ROUND: Wells leads way with double century for Leicestershire as first-class counties dominate

Cheshire felled by Emburey

Round-up
DAVID LLEWELLYN

It may be cricket's most frenetic day - 32 teams and a welter of statistics as they chase 16 second-round places - but the NatWest Trophy first round is also the game's most one-sided binge.

About the only unpredictable thing was the appearance of a couple of familiar names on the umpiring front. Jeremy Lloyds, the former Somerset and Gloucestershire batsman, was standing in the uncompleted affair in Belfast, and John Steele, once of Leicestershire, was officiating in Taunton.

But back to cricket's answer to the Grand National, in which the first to fall were Cheshire, Northamptonshire, last season's beaten finalists, made short work of the Minors' batting as John Emburey became only the second bowler to take a hat-trick for the county (after David Larter in 1963). Then Richard Montgomerie (69 not out) made even shorter work of the bowling - 25 overs - as the first-class county ran out nine-wicket winners by 4pm.

Derbyshire, who rested Dominic Cork, needed about an hour longer, but an unbroken third-wicket stand of 131 between Chris Adams (68 off 41 balls) and Tim O'Gorman (62) got them home by eight wickets with more than 25 overs to spare.

It was no more difficult for Essex, Middlesex or Surrey. Nasser Hussain, having taken 26 deliveries to get off the mark, proceeded to make 105 to help Essex to a comfortable 119-run win over Devon.

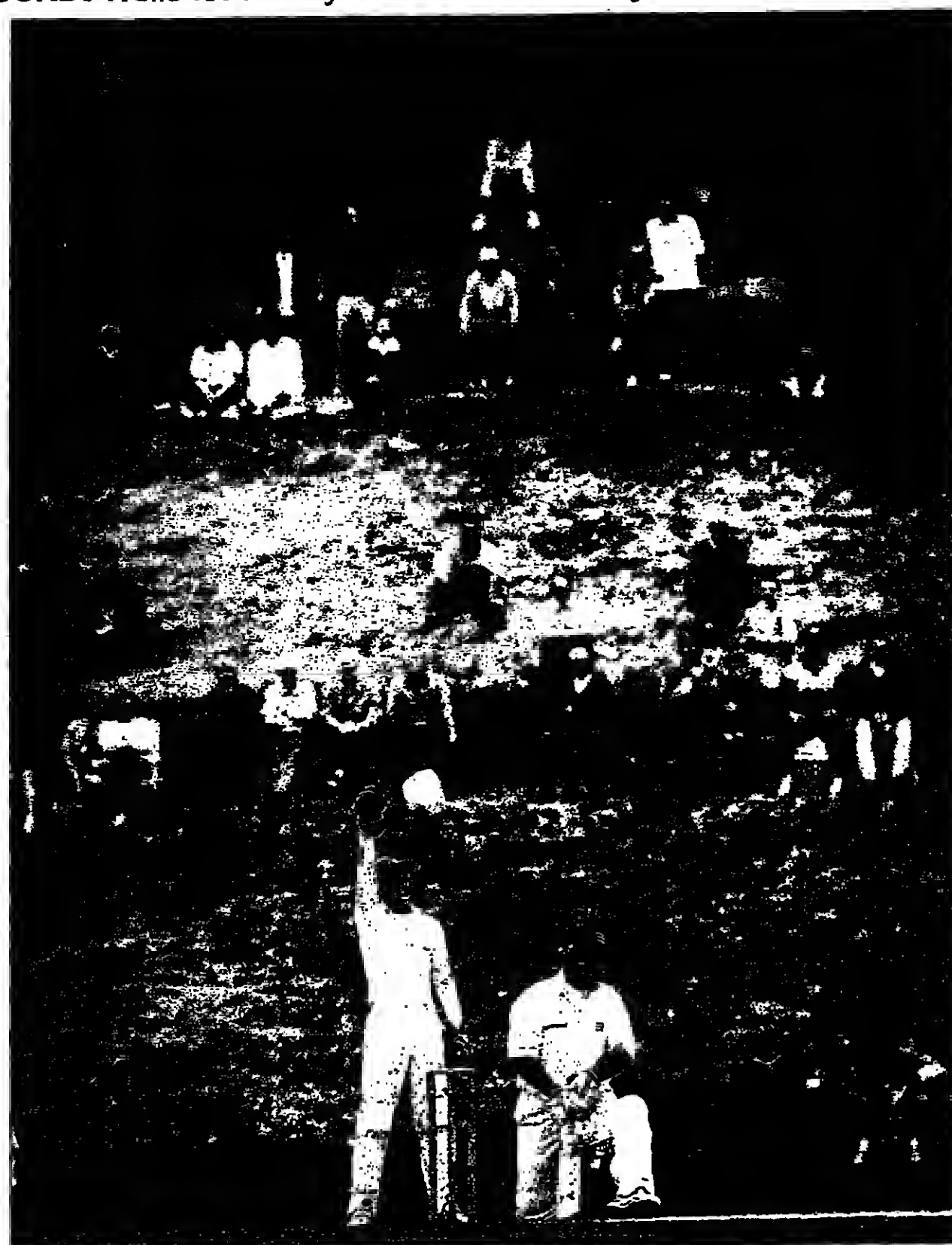
Middlesex made the long trek to Carlisle and emerged victors by 102 runs, Mike Gatting smacking 71 and John Carr 62 against Cumberland. Surrey crushed the Netherlands, who included the former New Zealand Test player Chris Pringle in their line-up, by 159 runs at The Oval.

Warwickshire went west and so did Cornwall's hopes of progress to the next round, the holders winning by 133 runs. Centuries by the captain, John Stephenson, and by Jason Laney, who set a competition record 269 for the first wicket, helped Hampshire to brush aside Norfolk by 99 runs.

However, the performance of the day had to be that of Vince Wells. He smashed 201 (the second highest individual score in the competition's history) against Berkshire to help Leicestershire reach 406 for 5 (the second highest total of the tournament). Leicestershire won by 106 runs.

Rain frustrated Sussex's efforts to get their match against Ireland finished. They still had five overs left when they called it a day on 323 for 7, just four runs short of their record for the 60-over tournament. The Sussex captain, Alan Wells, hit 113.

There was more unfinished, and far less happy, business for Sussex off the field after one of their players was named last night as the player who had failed a drug test during the championship match against Kent at Timbriidge Wells last month. However, neither the Test and County Cricket Board nor Sussex would confirm the report until the result of a second, mandatory test on a second urine sample is known.



Not out: Middlesex's Mike Gatting survives an lbw appeal against Cumberland at Carlisle. Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

Yorkshire's trail blazed by Moxon

MIKE CAREY
reports from Headingley
Yorkshire 345-5
Nottinghamshire 140
Yorkshire won by 205 runs

Putting teams in at Headingley has been known to have its rewards. But not when the sun blazes down from a cloudless sky, not when the pitch is mild mannered and not when much of the bowling is, shall we say, less than distinguished.

Above all, not when there is a batsman on view of the class of Martyn Moxon, who shredded Nottinghamshire's attack yesterday by making 137 from 157 deliveries in a way that suggested, and the watching Raymond Illingworth was happy to confirm, that he could still have a Test future rather than a past.

Michael Vaughan shared a free-wheeling opening partnership of 143 from 32 overs with him and Michael Bevan improved as possibly only he can to score 69 from 42 balls, a piece of virtuosity that probably devastated bowlers who by then were exceedingly world weary and not a little frustrated.

All this left Nottinghamshire needing to surpass Warwickshire's 322 in the final three years ago, which is the highest score made by a side batting second and winning in this competition; unsurprisingly the necessary panache was not forthcoming against bowling that was always more controlled than their own.

As ever in most days' cricket, though, there was a finer dividing line between success and failure than the scoreboard indicated. While Notts probably felt that they were better equipped for chasing a target, there was something in the pitch for their bowlers while the ball was new.

But this was one of those wretched days for them when the good balls contrived to miss the cage rather than find it. The trouble was that although Chris Cairns produced several beauties, beating even Moxon, there were far too few from other sources and Notts failed to keep an accurate off-stump line.

Thus Moxon never looked back after locating - and dealing with severely - the first of many half-volleys. Thereafter he had a stroke for almost every ball, most of them majestically timed, and gradually he hit powerfully through the line, which was not entirely straightforward on a pitch of lowish and occasionally variable bounce.

He gave one, maybe two, hard chances, the first long after Yorkshire were up and away. But judged by the usual better, he was a stroke for almost every ball, most of them majestically timed, and gradually he hit powerfully through the line, which was not entirely straightforward on a pitch of lowish and occasionally variable bounce.

Illingworth knows this. He wanted to take Moxon to South Africa last winter but did not get his way. A damaged thumb stemmed the flow of runs that put Moxon in the selectors' minds earlier in the season and although there could be a case for playing this specialist opening batsman against Pakistan later this summer, the presence of Messrs Waqaar and Younis means this tendency to pick up such injuries is the only question mark on Moxon's cv.

Ironically, a couple of blows on the boot from yorkers gave Moxon most cause for concern in this innings. In the end he was caught on the boundary, where Nottinghamshire picked up four of their five wickets, which may tell you something about the quality of their attack.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

NatWest Trophy first round

One-day matches

Cambridgeshire v Kent

MARSH: Kent beat Cambridgeshire by 98 runs.

Match won 105

KENT

T R Ward c Ecclestone b Maitland 14

M V Fleming c Ecclestone b Maitland 14

G J Courtney c Ecclestone b Maitland 12

N J Llong not out 115

M A Eastham b Maitland 11

C L Hooper c Adams b Dandridge 26

M J Walker not out 41

Edwards (lb, w), 102

Total (for 5, 60 overs) 279

Did not bat: J S A Marsh, N W Preston, M P Patel, R W Maitland

Cambridgeshire

Bowling: Maitland 6-0-19-2; Eastham 3-1-11-2; Ward 3-1-11-2; Courtney 3-1-11-2; Llong 3-1-11-2; Eastham 3-1-11-2; Hooper 3-1-11-2; Walker 3-1-11-2; Edwards 3-1-11-2

Cambridgeshire won toss

Warwickshire v Middlesex

CARLISLE: Middlesex beat Warwickshire by 102 runs.

Match won 105

MIDDLESEX

J M Harris b Small 34

N M K Smith b Small 30

P A Smith b Small 30

P A Smith b Small 30

P A Smith b Small 30

P A Smith b Small 30

P A Smith b Small 30

P A Smith b Small 30

P A Smith b Small 30

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Leicestershire v Berkshire

CARLISLE: Leicestershire beat Berkshire by 106 runs.

Match won 105

LEICESTERSHIRE

Vince Wells 201

John Stephenson 113

Jason Laney 69

Chris Adams 68

Tim O'Gorman 62

Richard Montgomerie 69

Chris Adams 68

Tim O'Gorman 62

Richard Montgomerie 69

Chris Adams 68

Tim O'Gorman 62

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Richard Montgomerie 69

Chris Adams 68

Derbyshire v Essex

CHICHESTER: Derbyshire beat Essex by 119 runs.

Match won 105

DERBYSHIRE

Chris Adams 68

Tim O'Gorman 62

Richard Montgomerie 69

Chris Adams 68

Tim O'Gorman 62

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Chris Adams 68

Gloucestershire v Hampshire

CHICHESTER: Gloucestershire beat Hampshire by 87 runs.

Match won 105

GLoucestershire

Chris Adams 68

Tim O'Gorman 62

Richard Montgomerie 69

Chris Adams 68

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Chris Adams 68

Tim O'Gorman 62

Henman leads British charge

JOHN ROBERTS

Tennis Correspondent



A year ago today, Tim Henman was in disgrace, the first player ever to be disqualified at Wimbledon in the open era. This morning he is a national hero, having eliminated Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the fifth seed and French Open champion, in a magnificent contest on the Centre Court.

One shot hit in anger which struck a ball-girl ended Henman's participation 12 months ago. Yesterday, the 21-year-old from Oxford displayed his full range of strokes and also showed tremendous character in overcoming the Russian, 7-6, 6-3, 6-7, 4-6, 7-5 after three hours and 36 minutes.

The triumph capped a splendid two days for the British men, seven of whom have advanced to the second round, a number last achieved 20 years ago. Henman was joined yesterday by Greg Rusedski, Mark Petchey, Danny Sapsford and Luke Milligan, as well as Chris Wilkinson and Colin Beecher, who had successfully negotiated the opening day.

One is guaranteed to make further progress, Sapsford being Henman's next opponent, which would not be good news for anybody.

There were moments in Henman's match yesterday when he seemed about to wrap things up

YESTERDAY AT WIMBLEDON

- Henman shows Britons the way with five-set victory over Kafelnikov
- Rusedski, Petchey, Milligan and Sapsford all add to British joy
- Graf and Sanchez Vicario, last year's finalists, make comfortable progress

in straight sets. But Kafelnikov survived three break points at 3-3 in the third set, and then proceeded to make life most uncomfortable for the British No 1.

Indeed, when it came down to the fifth set, Henman appeared to be on the verge of adding his name to the great British near-misses on the world's most famous court.

Trailing 3-5, he saved two match points - both of them with aces. Kafelnikov then double-faulted to present Henman with a couple of break points in the next game, and the Briton devoured the first with a confident forehand down the line.

Henman saved a set point in the 11th game with a winning serve, and reached match point at 7-5 by out-rallying his opponent. And when it came to the crunch for the Russian, Henman lured him into netting a backhand.

Rusedski revealed that he almost missed the tournament. "I didn't know whether

I was going to be playing, because I put my hip out of joint in Nottingham," he said. "I felt it on Saturday, and then on Sunday morning I woke up and almost couldn't get out of bed. Fortunately my physio managed to put me together again."

The British No 2 was fit enough to overcome the challenge of Daniel Nestor, a 23-year-old Canadian who was born in Belgrade, 7-6, 7-6, 6-2. "We've always had close matches," Rusedski said. "I just felt very confident because I knew that if I got into a tie-break I could manage a win with the British support."

It was Milligan's first win other than in satellite events. The 19-year-old from Muswell Hill, Middlesex, ranked No 278, had not previously competed at the All England Club, but he was able to hold his nerve after slipping two sets to one down to defeat the Swedish Davis Cup player, Jonas Bjorkman, 4-6, 6-1, 2-6, 7-5, 6-4.

"Once the first set was over,

the novelty of being here for the first time and everything wore off a bit," he said. "I played a very good second set. He upped his game a lot in the third set, and the third and fourth were very tight, but I came out with a few good shots on important points, which swung it my way."

Inexperience did threaten to unsettle Milligan when it came to closing the match out. "I was very nervous in my last service game especially, but a couple of people who were watching said I didn't look it, so I must have hidden it pretty well."

Milligan now plays Nicolas Pietrangeli, from Ecuador, ranked 192 places above him at No 86. "He's the same age as me, and we know each other well from the juniors a couple of years back. I've watched him a lot, but I've only ever played him in doubles. It will be interesting."

Sapsford also marked a breakthrough with his victory against Leander Paes, 1-6, 6-2, 6-4, 7-6. "I've played four main draws and five qualifying and two juniors and it's the first singles match I've won at Wimbledon, so I feel as if I've exorcised a demon today."

The 27-year-old from Weybridge, Surrey, who is ranked No 195, stopped playing and tried coaching for nine months in 1992, until a sponsor helped finance his return to the tour. "It's nice to actually produce a win at Wimbledon, where the majority of the British public think that this is the only tournament of the year," he added.

Petchey's win against Paes was a source of particular satisfaction, the Indian being one of a list of players who have defeated the Essex man in Davis Cup ties. Their only previous meeting was in a dead rubber in the World Group qualifying round in New Delhi in 1992, Paes winning, 6-2, 6-4.

Yesterday, Petchey created his first match point at 5-4 in the fourth set before being taken to a tie-break. He then saved five set points before converting his fourth match point, 13-11. "I was getting a bit frustrated with the fact that I should have put the guy away before we got to the breaker," he said.

More reports and results, page 5



Tim Henman stoops to conquer on Wimbledon's Centre Court yesterday where he beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov, French Open champion and No 5 seed from Russia, in five sets. Photograph: David Ashdown

Below: Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, the No 11 seed, on her way to victory over Joannette Kruger. Photograph: Empos

Did you guess our hidden personality?

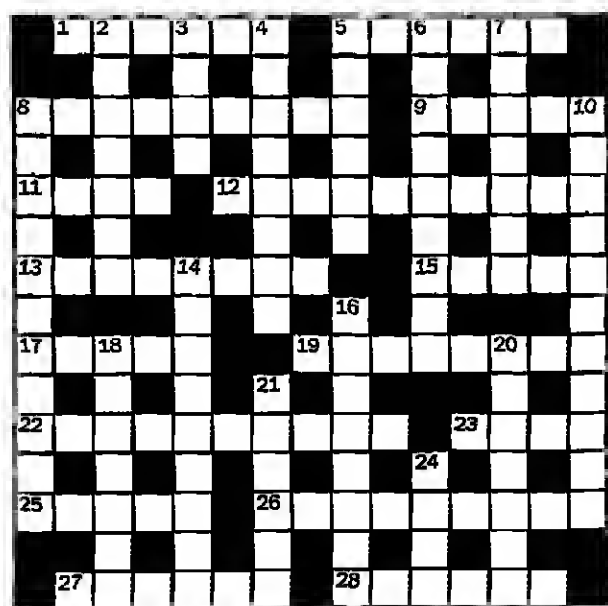
A former Borussia Mönchengladbach defender, given his nickname because of the way he used to snap at defenders' heels, Berti Vogts has been the Germany coach since 1990, succeeding Franz Beckenbauer. After Germany fell in the quarter-finals of the World Cup in 1994, Vogts has rebuffed his critics by building a new team which has cruised through to the semi-finals of Euro 96.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3023, Wednesday 26 June

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution

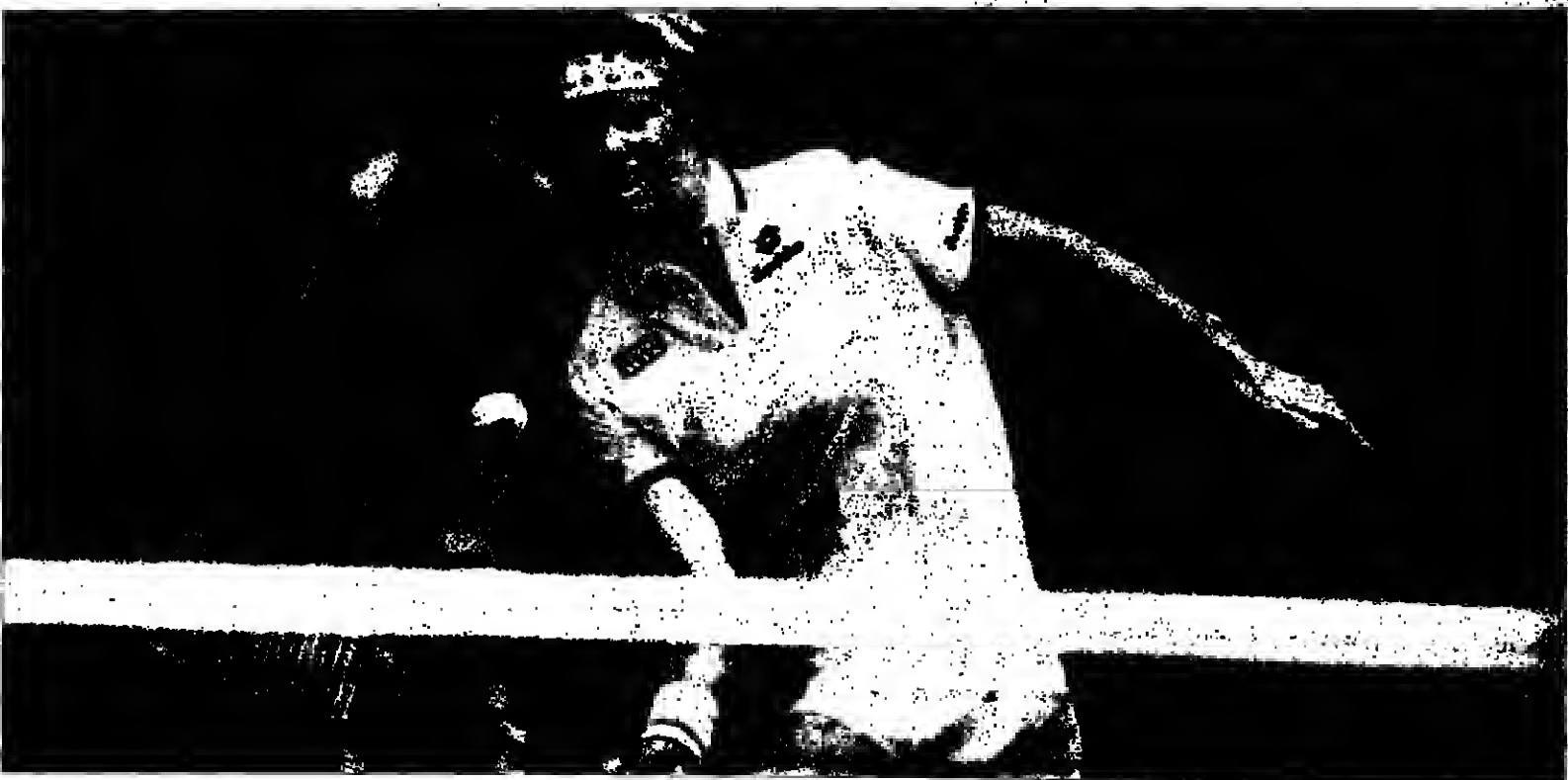


DOWN
1. Most unpleasant to be overdrawn, with reminders of debts (6)
2. Long snake makes one run (6)
3. Weapon no embargo affected (9)
4. Second eleven to go quickly (5)
5. Holds beads on trains (4)
6. Rock Mass derived from concertino parts (10)
7. Crazy, he will contract shortly in here (8)
8. Play abandoned around middle of match, as is fitting (5)
9. Preoccupation of underweight German leader (5)
10. Bounty, paradoxically, brings misery and want (8)

ACROSS
1. Sealion cub, in the wild state, is hostile (10)
2. Most impressed, Adam's first to get married (4)
3. City in which A. Trollope is said to be buried (5)
4. Story collector, a friend in time of need? (4-5)
5. High peak, finally, of patriarch's voyage (6)
6. Writer of whimsy for listeners? (6)

DOWN
1. Shoe-cleaner, the sort that can be pushed around (7)
2. What is accomplished afloat? (4)
3. Plant buried, would you say, on the beach? (3-5)
4. The French camp holding Charles's first bequest (6)

ACROSS
6. Slight girl's view? (9)
7. He covers all the points of fencing (7)
8. Association of ideas (6,5)
9. Yen promised, possibly, by this lucky thing in Japan? (5-6)
10. One raises the issue at mealtimes (4-5)
11. Sheriff's men very loud in destroying alibis? (8)
12. Isolated city in ruins, sadly... (7)
13. ...and, we hang about outside (7)
14. Job, perhaps, in the theatre? (6)
15. Make out England's first mole? (4)



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